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Sidney Weighell:  
Reforms Labour  
must make, page 8

Friday, December 28, 1979  
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# THE TIMES

## Steel strike may be called off today

he threatened strike by steelworkers, called for next Wednesday, may be averted. British Steel is indicated privately that it will modify its final offer and drop its demand for the abolition of the guaranteed working week.

## Settlement possible, Mr Sirs says

Paul Rotheridge, general secretary of the British Steelworkers' Union, said today that a settlement was possible. He said the union was prepared to accept a 3 per cent increase in the basic rate of pay, but insisted that the guaranteed working week must be retained. Mr Sirs, the union's president, said the union was prepared to accept a 3 per cent increase in the basic rate of pay, but insisted that the guaranteed working week must be retained.

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## London tunnel plan to link north-south rail lines

Michael Bailey, transport correspondent, said a £350m proposal for twin line tunnels under the city of London is in an advanced stage of study by British Rail for submission to the Transport Committee. The tunnels would link the north-south rail lines, providing a direct route for passenger and freight traffic.

## Britain reduces Tehran Embassy staff as threat of sanctions against Iran grows

British Embassy staff in Tehran have been reduced to a skeleton force of 20, it was learned today. The reduction comes as the British government considers the possibility of imposing economic sanctions on Iran in response to its actions in the Persian Gulf.

## Torrential rain, gale-force winds and overflowing rivers bring death and devastation to Wales Day of disaster as storms leave many areas of Britain under water

By Penny Symon and Tim Jones  
Torrential rain and gale-force winds brought widespread flooding to many parts of Britain yesterday. Shipping was also in difficulties off some parts of the coast. Wales, where swollen rivers burst their banks, was one of the areas worst affected; some parts of south Wales had their heaviest rainfall in a hundred years.

Police and rescue workers searched in chaotic conditions in chest-deep water for possible victims. As night fell with no sign of conditions improving the towns of Aberdare, Brecon, Llanelli, Abergavenny, Rhema, and Builth Wells were cut off, and police continued to broadcast red alert flood warnings for the whole of the principality.

United States cooling coal for Llanwrda steelworks. The shipment had been blocked by Newport dockers. Parts of Cumbria were covered with floodwater up to six feet deep, and many acres of farmland were under water. On Boxing day the area was among those affected by an earthquake.



Sir Michael Edwards, chairman of BL, left, and Mr Kiyoshi Kawashima, president of Honda, seal a deal for the first Japanese-produced car in Britain (Report, page 11).

## Esso petrol increases by 4p a gallon

By Nicholas Hirst, Energy Correspondent  
Esso today began an expected series of price increases by petrol companies with a rise of 4p on a gallon of four star. The rise, which was imposed from midnight, is expected to be followed by other companies over the next month, and comes after the indecisive outcome of the recent meeting in Caracas of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

## Gold rises to record \$511 an ounce

Gold broke the \$500 barrier in London to close at a record \$511 an ounce, a jump of \$2.75 from the close on Christmas Eve. The gold market closed in the early afternoon and dealers described trading as thin and nervous. Later in New York, the metal began trading at \$515 an ounce, \$11 up on Wednesday's record closing price.

## Soviet troops reported to be fighting in streets of Kabul

From David Cross, Washington, Dec 27  
Soviet troops appeared to be involved in fighting today in the streets of Kabul, capital of Afghanistan. The United States Administration said here. The fighting was taking place in various parts of the city, particularly near the Radio Kabul building and the presidential palace, the officials said. But because reports of the fighting were still extremely sketchy, it was not immediately known who, apart from the Russian troops, was involved.

## Three RAF men die in Rhodesia crash

From Frederick Cleary, Salisbury, Dec 27  
Salisbury, Dec 27  
A State Department spokesman said that about 200 flights by Soviet transport aircraft had taken troops and equipment to Afghanistan since Christmas Eve. The spokesman said that the United States was concerned about the build-up of Soviet troops in and around Afghanistan. The Administration's views were conveyed during a meeting this morning with Mr Maitsev, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister.

## Postal strike worst in North

Scotland and the North of England were the areas affected most by a one-day strike by some members of the Union of Post Office Workers. Deliveries and courier services were disrupted by the official action of some members who took the day off, claiming it was part of their Christmas holiday. Page 2

## Drink drive has some success

The police campaign to stop motorists drinking to excess had mixed results over Christmas. Seven of every 10 drivers tested in the campaign were over the limit, but in Derbyshire a concerted police effort resulted in only one in 10 tests proving positive. Police efforts throughout Britain were backed up by a £12.5m government advertising programme. Page 2

## Pol Pot still in command

Mr Pol Pot remains the effective leader of the deposed Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea despite his replacement as Prime Minister. The new Prime Minister is President Khieu Samphan, but Mr Pol Pot is supreme military commander. The changes are regarded as cosmetic. Page 4

## French MPs go back to work

The French National Assembly has reconvened in an atmosphere of political tension for an extraordinary budget session. The aim is to pass before the new year a first Bill enabling the Government to collect taxes and make payments on the basis of the 1979 budget. It is then hoped to pass a revamped 1980 budget Bill next month. Page 3

## Boeing 747 crash lands at Heathrow

A Pan Am Boeing 747 freighter aircraft crash landed at London Heathrow last night. It caught fire on the runway and wreckage blocked incoming flights which were diverted to Birmingham and Stansted. The aircraft was on a flight from New York. Earlier, Heathrow fire services were called to help a British Airways Boeing 747, bound for Miami, after a report of a fire in one of its engines. Airport officials thought the engine had a "blow out" as the pilot was revving up for take-off.

## Missing pianist found dead

The body of a naked man found in the town of Beachy Head, East Sussex, was identified yesterday as that of Mr Terence Judd, the concert pianist who went missing from his north London home on December 16. Police declined to say if foul play was suspected. Mr Judd, aged 22, was due to leave on a concert tour of Russia last Sunday.

### We've a good head for investment and finance.

David Lyall, a partner at Barrington Laurance, heads up our Investment and Finance team. The service they offer covers every aspect of real estate investment and financing. This service is available to investors, industrialists and developers and our clients range from the largest insurance companies and pension funds to smaller family trusts and private individuals. As well as this service, Barrington Laurance handles all other aspects of property business, including real estate management, estate agency, building surveying and project management, valuation and overseas business.

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routine surveillance. Several big forces adopted the same policy, and the general public's concentration on the Christmas period would lead motorists to believe they were in danger of being caught only at that time of the year.

In Derbyshire, where special squads of police cars were detailed to curb motorway offenders, the campaign led to 61 positive and 664 negative breath tests. Nine motorists were arrested for refusing to take the test.

A measure of the success of the county's campaign came in a statement from licensees who said that trade in public houses was well down because of the police activity. Mr Frank Monk, chairman of the Derby and District Licensed Victuallers Association gave a warning that next year publicans might not bother with applications for the extension of licensing hours.

All the money now is that we keep the roads busy and keep on staff at double time for very little extra trade. We shall

"very quiet period" with few accidents. The force said before Christmas that there would be no more driving on the roads.

In Scotland, police forces reported a generally quiet Christmas period. In the Strathclyde region, which includes Glasgow, only 42 positive breath tests were recorded from Christmas Eve to Boxing Day, two fewer than last year. However, in Scotland New Year is traditionally more important for celebration than Christmas.

In Yorkshire, Westmorland police said 99 drivers were arrested accused of drunken driving. Six people died on the roads in that county over Christmas.

In Northern Ireland a tough police campaign showed some results over the holiday period. In the five days from last Saturday the number of accidents was down by a fifth. Six people died and 102 were injured in 80 road accidents. Drivers were warned that the purge on drunken drivers will continue into the new year.

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Trade union leaders have begun to give their self-imposed task of 'defending' what they see as their future in retaining tripartite links with the Government and employers on industrial policy.

The General Council of the TUC has sent out circulars to more than 100 affiliated unions asking if they are prepared while continuing to play a role in the Economic Development Committees (the so-called 'Little Noddies'), and the 35 sector working parties set up by the Labour Government, to consider its industrial strategy.

A TUC-sponsored withdrawal from some or even all of those bodies is a possibility because of trade union disillusionment with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's philosophy of retaining 'industrial democracy' by talking to the entrepreneurs.

Replies to the general council circular will be incorporated in a report to the TUC's influential economic committee, in

# on deaths in custody

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

The controversy over deaths in police custody continued yesterday with Mr. Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham West, saying he is to seek an adjournment debate in the House of Commons on the subject.

He said that an early decision had attracted 120 signatures. It refers to deaths in police custody as well as "many recently reported cases of serious violence short of death".

Figures of deaths from non-natural causes of persons whilst in police custody indicate, he said, that the few much publicized cases are not isolated examples but part of a wider and regularly recurring trend.

Mr. Meacher denied a Police Federation charge, reported in

he was pushed by a coursing supporter. His camera equipment was kicked until the lens fell off.

Jeering coursing supporters cleared the footpath so that coursing could be resumed.

Earlier this substance held

union activities: the interface between capital and labour; the relationships between the Armed Forces, the police, the public and the press; the impact of mass collective bargaining and its impact on incomes policies, particularly in the public sector, are all subjects which are affected by military intervention.

Mr Whelan is particularly concerned about a passage in the *Manual of Military Law*, the "Employment of Troops in the Use of the Civil Power", which reads:

Though there is no legal difference between soldiers and other citizens in respect of the duty to respond to the call of the civil authority, there is, in cases of emergency, a difference of capacity. Authority has not asked for help, a duty to take action laid upon military commanders by Queen's Regulations. It is not for other citizens except magistrates and peace officers.

Even though the civil authority is not directed to do anything, contrary to the commander of the troops, if it is really necessary, as is bound to take such action as the circumstances demand.

Mr Whelan writes that such powers have not been used in industrial disputes in recent years, but notes: "There may be some circumstances in which commanders to intervene at Sellyoke coke depot in the 1972 miners' strike when 5,000 demonstrators and pickets blocked the depot gates despite the police."

*The Industrial Law Journal*, Volume 8, Number 4, December, 1973. (Sweet and Maxwell Ltd, 1, Nine Elms Lane, London EC4-4EE, £2.40p.)

There are influential areas in the country where people have not come to work, like Manchester, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The Post Office reported that there were no postal deliveries in Glasgow and 13 of 20 post office counters were closed.

In London the position was exacerbated as no mail was driven from the main stations.

It was held up by a separate strike by members of the Central Costrs Service.

Mr Dennis Roberts, managing director of posts, said that 95 per cent of counters were open and more than 70 per cent of delivery offices were providing a service.

**post offices 'n**

fortnightly instead of weekly and child benefits possibly only monthly. Mr Norman Taylor, the general secretary, commented yesterday that in some sub-post offices sub-postmasters' remuneration would be cut by a third.

... could have disastrous consequences on the network on which the social services depend", he said.

The federation says that the ending of regular weekly payments would cause distress and

**Oil-rig barge**  
**after breaking**

## Hunger striker breaks fast for Christmas

Archibald Hall, aged 55, who is serving life imprisonment at Wakefield for five murders, renewed his fast yesterday after eating a meal on Christmas Eve.

He began his protest on July 10 over a Home Office refusal to allow him to serve his sentence in Scotland, his home country. On Christmas Eve he had weak tea and on Christmas Day he ate small portions of grapefruit, bacon, egg and tomato. He also tried spoonfuls of white and mixed milk but vomited.

During his fast Mr. Hall has been taking liquids, but for two weeks before Christmas he refused liquids as well. He has now resumed his liquid diet.

## Weather fore

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in mill

moment that all of these deaths are the result of police violence. The police do pick up drunkards, drug addicts, and meths drunks, and they may die in their hands," Mr. Mencher said.

But he was puzzled about police discrimination between natural and non-natural deaths. In 10 per cent of total deaths (23 cases) from "natural causes" he wanted to know, "over the decade there had been no inquest," he said.

Figures he had obtained about cases in Scotland had led him to calculate that on average there had been 21 deaths a year from "non-natural causes" in England, Wales and Scotland.

"That is a horrifying figure," he said. "But this is not South Africa. I believe it is in the interests of the police themselves that the full facts should be known for the sake of their reputation." He wanted the Home Secretary to set up an inquiry.

Mr Mencher has obtained a breakdown by force areas over the nine and a half years ended June 30, 1978.

Of 245 total deaths in police custody in England and Wales, 102 had been in the Metropolitan Police district, which had a fifth of the population of the country, he said, but double that proportion (two-fifths) of deaths in police custody.

By Our Political Staff

A memorial service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Pittsfield, Southend, Essex, on Monday, Dec. 29, at 11 a.m. for the late Sir James McCadden, who was Conservative MP for Southend, East, for 29 years.

Sir Stephen, who was 72, died in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on Boxing Day. He was stricken after falling down a staircase at Westminster Underground station on Decem-

Continued from page 8

ber 28. At New Holland, Essex, he was seen in the morning rages, which the car deck gates and several feet of bulwark vessel was taken out of our range.

400-ft. oil rig barges went adrift off the Irish coast yesterday after being icy away from the tug it. It later ran aground on a beach near the town of Fowey. The barge was

Voting in the last general election was:

Sir S. Macdonald (C) 23,412; T. N. McEwen (Lib) 11,612; J. J. McNeill (Lab) 11,334; P. Twomey (National Front) 676. C majority, 10,774.

Obituary, page 10

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### £25,000 fire damage

A fire which swept through the sports centre at the Ambassadors Club, at Brickley Wood, near St Albans, on Boxing Day, caused damage estimated at £25,000.

A train driver had a lucky escape after his locomotive hit a telegraph pole blown down by a gale at Marston crossing between Burton upon Trent and Uttoxeter. His cab was badly damaged, but he escaped with cuts. The guard snuffed shock when the train braked hard. Both men were taken to hospital.

British Rail said that the train was travelling about 50 mph. Normally it would have been crowded but yesterday

English Channel (E). Sr  
George's Channel. Irish Sea; Wind  
W; strong, perhaps gale at times;  
sea rough or very rough.

ner, by more expensive in the longer term. By not choosing Haplin, on the Essex coast, one of the six shortlisted sites, the Government had lost a golden opportunity to invest in the future prosperity of Britain.

Essex County Council described as "a common-sense" statement that the Government's London airport would be built, while at the same time announcing that Stansted would expand from less than half a million passengers a year to 15 million, with the possibility of a second runway by 1990.

The council's policy was to oppose growth at Stansted over 15 million passengers a year.

The Hertfordshire Society,

[illegible]

pr. mean sea level, 5 pm, 594.3  
millibars, falling  
1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

**Crosses selling prices**

Australia	\$1.50	Austria	Sch 20.
Belgium	1.00	Britain	£1.00
Canada	1.00	France	FF 200.
Denmark	1.00	Germany	DM 1.00
Finland	1.00	Greece	Dr 100.
France	1.00	Italy	Lira 200.
Germany	1.00	Japan	Yen 100.
India	1.00	Jordan	Din 1.00
Indonesia	1.00	Libya	Dinar 1.00
Italy	1.00	Netherlands	1.00
Japan	1.00	Norway	1.00
Libya	1.00	Poland	1.00
Netherlands	1.00	Portugal	1.00
Norway	1.00	Romania	1.00
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Romania	1.00	Sweden	1.00
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Exchange rates are subject to change without notice. For more information, contact the U.S. State Department, Office of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20520.

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## OVERSEAS

## Pol Pot in command despite reshuffle among Khmer Rouge

From Neil Kelly Bangkok, Dec 27

Despite his replacement as Prime Minister, Mr Pol Pot who has been accused of the worst crimes against humanity since Hitler, remains the effective leader of the deposed Khmer Rouge regime in Kampuchea.

"He still has the key jobs of supreme military commander and party leader", a Western diplomat said here.

Broadcasting today from Phnom Penh, the Khmer Rouge radio said President Khieu Samphan, head of state, had become Prime Minister in place of Mr Pol Pot who was named as supreme military commander.

The change is regarded in this region as an inadequate attempt to improve the image of the Pol Pot regime overthrown in January with the help of the Vietnamese. The regime's policy of granting private property rights and religious freedom to individuals is seen as a last ditch attempt by Mr Pol Pot and his colleagues to win support.

A Thai Army spokesman said the government change would not alter the military situation in the border area and anti-communist Kampuchean guerrillas were already collaborating in some border areas. "Pol Pot's head might produce a change but nothing else", he said.

Colonel Rho Rughien, second-in-command of the Second Infantry Regiment on the border with the Vietnamese Army across the border was too weak to launch an offensive against resistance fighters. "Each Vietnamese soldier has only two or three rounds of ammunition", he said. "For that and other reasons we expect only limited action by Vietnamese units in border areas."

## Ex-president faces trial for illegal Seoul rally

Seoul, Dec 27.—The martial law authorities said today that they would open trial on an 83-year-old former President of South Korea against charges of holding an unauthorized anti-government rally in Seoul last month.

A martial law spokesman said 14 of the dissidents were held under arrest but former President Park Chung-hee, who was assassinated on October 26, after the meeting, the dissidents went into the streets, where they clashed with riot police and armed soldiers.

Mr Yun, who was President from 1960-1961, is noted for his staunch stand against the political system of the late President Park, which Mr Yun called "repressive and dictatorial".

The stand taken by the Martial Law Commission reflects an unwillingness of President Choi's Government to make drastic political changes.

President Choi promised to adopt a new constitution and hold a new presidential election but only at least a year to prepare the new constitution. The dissidents argue that a year is too long.—UPI.

A total of 237 people were held overnight but all except the 18 charged today were released later with warnings, the spokesman added.

## Girls in Peking Peace Cafe mixed too freely

Peking, Dec 27.—Peking police have arrested a group of youths who "profited by encouraging girls to hang around with foreigners", the Peking Daily said today.

The newspaper said the youths often frequented the Peace Cafe, one of the few places in the Chinese capital where foreigners and local Chinese can meet freely.

"Since last September, these hoodlums, dressed seductively, often gathered together at the Peace Cafe and other places committing all kinds of outrageous acts," the newspaper said.

Yang Jiquan and Liu Xiaohua, the principal criminals, went so far as to profit from encouraging girls to hang around with foreigners, the newspaper said, adding that the youths had harmed China's national honour by the behaviour.

A sign outside the Peace Cafe today said it would be moving tomorrow to alternative premises a few doors from its present site.—Reuters.

## Africa church conference appeals for extra funds

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Dec 27

The All Africa Conference of Churches, which has its headquarters here, is appealing to its member churches for additional funds to overcome financial difficulties.

Mr Kodwo Ankrab, a Ghanaian who is acting general secretary, said overseas donors had been withholding donations to the conference until a leadership crisis and other problems were resolved.

Canon Burgess Carr, the general secretary, left Kenya two years ago after being criticised by Kenya Government leaders when he compared Kenya to the late President Kenyatta to Ethiopia under the late Emperor Haile Selassie.

Mr Carr spent a sabbatical year at Harvard University, and

has not yet returned to Kenya. The conference's budget last year was more than \$300,000, most of which came from overseas donors. Mr Ankrab said both expatriate and local staff had been laid off as an economy measure, and part of the conference's new headquarters building had been rented out. Its programs had also been cut back.

The conference was established in 1963 and has played a significant role in church unity and cooperation in Africa. It has taken a strong line on the issue of African liberation, supporting African guerrilla organizations in southern Africa as a manifestation of the struggle for independence.

Most of Africa's main Protestant churches are affiliated to the conference.

Stone Age skeleton

Peking, Dec 27.—A man digging foundations for a kiln in Shanxi province found a well-preserved human skeleton from the new Stone Age, dating from between 4,000 and 9,000 years ago.

Alliance urged: Mr Pich Cheang, the Khmer Rouge representative in Peking, today urged the United States to join in the anti-Vietnamese struggle in Kampuchea in order to prevent the Soviet Union from controlling the Strait of Malacca.

Mr Pich Cheang said at a press conference attended by Chinese Foreign Ministry officials, that the United States had a role to play alongside all "peace and justice-loving countries and peoples" in supporting the Khmer Rouge against Vietnamese aggression.

Mr Pich Cheang urged Sweden to reconsider its decision to authorize the pro-Vietnamese Hong Samrin regime to open a press office in Stockholm. He described the Hong Samrin regime in Phnom Penh as "a puppet of the lowest kind", Agence France-Presse.

Refugee's fate: The EEC Commission expressed concern at the fate of refugees from Kampuchea following reports of impending new military operations along the border with Thailand.

"The misery of men, women and children massed there must not be aggravated by the sufferings, wounds and deaths that such operations would cause among innocent civilian victims", it said in a statement.

The Commission would continue to do everything it could to help these populations through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Red Cross and other non-governmental relief organizations working in the field, it said.

The Commission praised relief workers and denounced any action that could endanger their lives.—Reuters.

There are many reasons for Turkey and Greece to be friends", Mr Erbakan went on. "They are neighbours, their defence requirements are the same, and they are members of the same alliance."

He believed that most problems between Turkey and Greece could be solved. The crisis over the Aegean continental shelf resulted from the fact that the equilibrium established by the Lausanne treaty of 1923 was disrupted.

Mr Erbakan said the Aegean air space arose from Greece's considering a "service" rendered as being a sovereign right.

It would be in the interest of both countries to adopt a more understanding attitude, Turkey was sensitive about the arm build-up in the Aegean and the situation of Turkish citizens in western Thrace.

Mr Gunduz Okum, the former Foreign Minister in the Secv Government, said he found the policy of the current government too pro-Western. This was also the view of other opposition spokesmen.

The National Salvation Party, the Islamic fundamentalist group which is supporting Mr Süleyman Demirel's conservative minority Government, also said that it would "not allow excessive pro-Western feelings to move Turkey away from Iran."

The aid being requested by the Islamic country of \$1,800m of military equipment and \$1,650m of economic assistance. This year's American aid program is made up of some \$1,000m worth of military assistance and \$600m worth of economic help.

Mr Weizman, who is accompanied by Mr Yacov Neeman, the Director General of Israel's Finance Ministry, is expected to remain in the United States until the weekend for further talks with administration officials before returning home.

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## Nato link reaffirmed by Turkish minister

From Sinan Fisek Ankara, Dec 27

"Turkey will pursue its 'multi-faceted' foreign policy, but will not allow itself to be drawn into the relations with the Western world, Mr Hayrettin Erkmen, the new Foreign Minister, said in a policy speech criticized by the Opposition as being too 'pro-Western'."

He told the Parliamentary budget committee that Turkey had "important political and economic ties with the Western world", which it could not ignore. He reaffirmed Turkey's commitment to Nato, adding, however, that Nato needs Turkey as much as Turkey needs Nato.

"The Government favoured the installation of cruise and Pershing missiles in West Europe as a deterrent, but also supported all efforts aiming at world disarmament and détente. Turkey would take care 'not to adopt a provocative attitude' towards its neighbours in general and the Soviet Union in particular."

The Government would not abide by the Ecevit Government's policy of freezing Turkey's relations with the EEC for five years. "We want to solve the problems between Turkey and the EEC within the framework of the spirit and the terms of our association with the Common Market, in a manner which will be most beneficial to Turkey's economy and its efforts aimed at development."

There would be no basic policy changes on Cyprus, Mr Erkmen said. He believed that the Greek side in Cyprus was preventing a solution of the problem by "digressing from the principles established at the Makarios-Denktaş meeting."

"There are many reasons for Turkey and Greece to be friends", Mr Erkmen went on. "They are neighbours, their defence requirements are the same, and they are members of the same alliance."

He believed that most problems between Turkey and Greece could be solved. The crisis over the Aegean continental shelf resulted from the fact that the equilibrium established by the Lausanne treaty of 1923 was disrupted.

Mr Erbakan said the Aegean air space arose from Greece's considering a "service" rendered as being a sovereign right.

It would be in the interest of both countries to adopt a more understanding attitude, Turkey was sensitive about the arm build-up in the Aegean and the situation of Turkish citizens in western Thrace.

Mr Gunduz Okum, the former Foreign Minister in the Secv Government, said he found the policy of the current government too pro-Western. This was also the view of other opposition spokesmen.

The National Salvation Party, the Islamic fundamentalist group which is supporting Mr Süleyman Demirel's conservative minority Government, also said that it would "not allow excessive pro-Western feelings to move Turkey away from Iran."

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Where life might exist: Deep rifts criss-cross the thick crust of ice around Europa, a moon of Jupiter, where Mr Richard Hoagland, an American scientist, believes that life may have developed.

Mr Hoagland, a consultant of the United States Space Agency, says that on the basis of the data collected by the Voyager spacecraft during fly-bys of Jupiter and its four moons, Europa is the most likely place in the solar system for extra-terrestrial life to exist.

"Only three other objects in the solar system have ever been seriously suggested as abodes of life—Mars, Jupiter and Saturn's moon, Titan", he said. "Spacecraft investigation of all three of these bodies in recent years has cast doubt on life existing on any of them. Europa seems to have what these other worlds do not—an ocean of water, the prime prerequisite for life as we know it", he said.

In an article for *Star and Sky* magazine, Mr Hoagland wrote: "Voyager 2 findings leave little doubt that Europa is covered with a crust of ice perhaps five miles thick that envelops a global ocean possibly 60 miles deep." Not only did this moon appear to have an ocean where life could exist, "it also exists because at one time conditions were suitable for this ocean to be free of ice", he wrote.

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## Weizman pressure on US to double aid

From David Cross Washington, Dec 27

Mr Ezer Weizman, the Israeli Defence Minister, was today trying to persuade a reluctant American Administration to meet his country's request for \$3,450m (£1,570m) worth of military and economic aid.

The latest indications are that Washington intends to offer the Israeli's no more than \$2,000m in the budget for the 1981 financial year, which is due to be announced next month. The budget for the current financial year included military and economic aid totalling \$1,875m for Israel.

During his talks here with Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, and Mr Harold Brown, the Defence Secretary, Mr Weizman was expected to explain that Israel required extra assistance mainly to pay higher fuel bills. He was pointing out that his country's main source of foreign oil—Iran—is no longer shipping supplies to Israel and that the Sinai oil fields have now been returned to Egyptian ownership.

The aid being requested by the Islamic country of \$1,800m of military equipment and \$1,650m of economic assistance. This year's American aid program is made up of some \$1,000m worth of military assistance and \$600m worth of economic help.

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## Terror raid on Israel across Jordan border

From Moshe Brilliant Tel Aviv, Dec 27

In a blood-soaked raid from Jordan's last night, guerrillas planted a bomb which exploded in a bus on the road to the Arava, a desert region, the military command in Tel Aviv announced today. Footprints of two men led to and from the scene on the Jordan border, it was said.

A military source here stated that an increasing number of Syrian and Lebanese guerrillas had been indicated to refrain from terrorist attacks from south Lebanon, lest they provoke Israeli retaliation against Syria and Lebanon. Accordingly they increased their attacks by way of Jordan and were trying to raid Israeli territory from the sea and to attack Israeli targets overseas.

All the incursions from Jordan in the past four years were in the occupied West Bank, as well as the spirit of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, the spokesman said.

The Egyptian-Israeli differences are expected to top the agenda of a summit conference between Mr Begin and President Sadat of Egypt, scheduled for January 7 in Arava.—UPI.

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SPORT

Cricket

# England are led by Botham for first time

From a Special Correspondent  
Brisbane, Dec 27

Ian Botham, the 24-year-old Somerset all-rounder, will have his first taste of captaincy since his days as a Yeovil schoolboy five years ago, when England played Queensland here tomorrow. Of the two senior players on the selection panel, Botham has stayed behind in Sydney after last night's victory over Australia in the one-day competition, and will, the vice-captain, be preserving his energies for the second Test, which starts tomorrow.

England will be meeting a much weakened team from the one they played in their first match in early November. Even without Boycott—who has been sent down after scores of 101 not out, 65 not out, 68, 105, 0, 99 not out, 68 and 66 not out—they should in four days be out of the second first-class victory to the one they achieved in Tasmania at the beginning of the month.

Apart from Chappell and Dymally, who are playing for Australia against West Indies in Melbourne, Thomson is out of the match because of a troublesome ankle injury. Wessels and Carlson are unavailable. There is also doubt about Kent, a stroke making middle order batsman who at the start of the tour was thought to have a chance of playing for Australia. Thomson's place is taken by Len Baalman, a young fast-medium left-hand bowler who has had three for 56, including Boycott's wicket, when England played Queensland 12 months ago.

England's priority, perhaps even ahead of winning, will be to find batting form in their last game before the tour. Botham, who has been scoring consistently and then only in the one-day games with his less rigorous demands on technique and concentration. Botham, who is in the side to bat and to bowl only in emergency, has passed 200 runs in two months—76 against Combined Universities at Adelaide. Randall has made two runs and four for four in the last two matches. Gower repeatedly has got himself out after playing himself in. Gower, with fewest chances, has looked in better touch than most, though he, too, has often thrown away his wicket. Except for the last match against New South Wales, in the end of January, this is England's



Yeovil boy makes good: Ian Botham, England's new captain.

last non-representative fixture of the tour. Larkin, who will open with Randall, Lever and Stevenson, then only in the one-day games with his less rigorous demands on technique and concentration. Botham, who is in the side to bat and to bowl only in emergency, has passed 200 runs in two months—76 against Combined Universities at Adelaide. Randall has made two runs and four for four in the last two matches. Gower repeatedly has got himself out after playing himself in. Gower, with fewest chances, has looked in better touch than most, though he, too, has often thrown away his wicket. Except for the last match against New South Wales, in the end of January, this is England's

# Raja ably carries burden for Pakistan

Kanpur, Dec 27—Waste-Raja, with a brilliant understudy, helped Pakistan to take a first innings lead of 57 over India on the third day of the fourth Test here today. Raja and Imran Khan, the 22-year-old batsman, played for nearly two hours, adding 43 for the eighth wicket.

India, who are one ahead in the six-test series, were bowled out for 162 in the first innings with most of the resistance mounted by tailenders. Pakistan's top batsmen flopped equally until Qasim, who scored 43, and Raja, who scored 22, played together for nearly two hours, adding 43 for the eighth wicket.

Pakistan resumed today at 12.4 for five but soon lost Majid Khan and Wasim Bari. The centre bowler then fell on Raja but he shouldered it well, hitting for 22 minutes and hitting 10 fours before he was out. Raja's stand with Qasim was Pakistan's best eighth wicket partnership against India, beating the 65 runs of the previous record. Zulfiqar Ahmed put on to 102.

Kapil Dev, the 20-year-old all-rounder, bowled impressively to 100 on a pitch that gave a more assistance to fast bowling. The role of 63. When he trapped Majid Khan before he broke Graham McKenzie's record for 100 Test wickets in a calendar year. Dev, who first played for India in 1976, has taken 73 wickets in 15 Tests.

INDIA: First innings 162 (Brisbane, Dec 27, 1st Test, India 1st Innings).  
Raja 22, Imran 43, Qasim 43, Zulfiqar 102, Kapil 63, McKenzie 73.

From an early, lowering day, the rain started down the wind all afternoon, gathering in intensity. The second half of the light glimmered in the mud. The white ball was like a piece of soap, possession especially from the line, over more of the game's refinement. Yet it was lit by two by just before the interval. Carleton, on the Barbicans right, picked up a fly back about 30 metres out, and a thoroughly unpromising position, more perhaps in hope than in reality. It was a wonder how he managed to keep his footing as he weaved and manoeuvred his way past half the

# Light breaks in after a hard day's night

From John Woodcock  
Cricket Correspondent  
Melbourne, Dec 27

All being well, the Test match starting here on Saturday between Australia and West Indies, will be played in more agreeable conditions than those which made last night's first-class game at the Sydney Cricket Ground between Australia and England. For the Test, the hour of play is conventional (11.0 most 6.0), though the rest day, so badly needed if players are to be seen at their best on the last three days of a match, has been taken.

The England party are in Brisbane for a four-day game against Queensland and if Embury can play up the threads where he left them at the end of last winter's tour to Australia he will be a useful member of the party. So far, that matter, night Gaining have been in the past two months. Gaining has taken over the captaincy of the Australia side, not one of the most powerful Sydney clubs, and lifted the club's status to the first division of the premier division. The last three Englishmen to have made such a mark on the Sydney club scene were Tony Greig and Bob Cowie, in 1975-76 and 1976-77, respectively, and Barry Knight, of Essex, in 1978-79.

England badly needed last night's victory. Their third one-day match against Australia—their confidence having been shaken by the loss of the first Test—was a morale booster. Perth and their one-day defeat by West Indies in Brisbane last Sunday was a bitter pill. The end of last winter's tour to Australia he will be a useful member of the party. So far, that matter, night Gaining have been in the past two months. Gaining has taken over the captaincy of the Australia side, not one of the most powerful Sydney clubs, and lifted the club's status to the first division of the premier division. The last three Englishmen to have made such a mark on the Sydney club scene were Tony Greig and Bob Cowie, in 1975-76 and 1976-77, respectively, and Barry Knight, of Essex, in 1978-79.

# The British disease transferred abroad

By Norman Cox  
Football Correspondent  
Munich, Dec 27

Munich, Dec 27—Football matches between West German and British players were known to be as tense as the British disease. Now, according to one of the most experienced football writers in the world, the British disease has been transferred abroad.

In the UEFA's monthly bulletin, the British disease has been transferred abroad. The bulletin, which is published in German, French, Italian, Spanish, and English, has been a success. The bulletin, which is published in German, French, Italian, Spanish, and English, has been a success. The bulletin, which is published in German, French, Italian, Spanish, and English, has been a success.

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Tennis

# Ball sends another seed bouncing to defeat

Melbourne, Dec 27—Australia's Sydney Ball, who has not advanced past the first round in a tournament since last year, was posed of the fourth seed Hank Pfister of the United States at the Kooyung stadium here.

Ball won his first-round match 7-5, 6-4, 6-3 in an encounter which was postponed on Wednesday night because of falling light. Pfister became the seventh seeded player to be eliminated from the tournament in three days of play. This year Ball, who has played in this year and his ranking is so low that he was forced to go through the qualifying rounds to win a place in the main draw.

Until recently Ball had lost all enthusiasm for tennis and had virtually retired from the game. "I had a few doubts about playing in this tournament at all," he said. "This year I had a change of heart and I lost all enthusiasm to play a bit of golf and a few other things. I would like to play in the bonus pool payments next year and also maybe make the doubles masters. That's the reason why I am playing again." Ball's return to tennis was primarily brought about by the confidence and encouragement given him by Paul Dent, his last coach. Dent and Ball have been practicing hard every day in their home town, Sydney. All the hard work seems to be paying dividends as Ball is playing his best tennis for several years, while Dent was victorious in the New South Wales open final last Sunday.

Rugby Union

# Two remarkable tries bring light to a muddy day

By Peter West  
Rugby Correspondent  
Leicester, Dec 27

On as filthy a day for this fixture as anyone could remember, the two sides slugged and splashed in a muddy, rain-soaked field at Welford Road yesterday, and the outcome was decided by the last kick of the game. Leicester, who had been leading 15-10, were reduced to 10-10 by a try from the Barbicans. The Barbicans' last kick of the game was a try from the Barbicans. The Barbicans' last kick of the game was a try from the Barbicans.

Leicester side who were left Rounding in his wake. He did it, and he reached the line to score as good as he could. Leicester side who were left Rounding in his wake. He did it, and he reached the line to score as good as he could. Leicester side who were left Rounding in his wake. He did it, and he reached the line to score as good as he could.

Hockey

# Latest European snow reports

By Peter Marson  
Swansea 20

Swansea had been expected to score yet another triumph over the Welsh Tourist Board yesterday, but a brave band of loyalists well wrapped against the cold in the stadium, had been surprised by the closeness of an excellent match where fortunes fluctuated tantalizingly and kept pace with a biting, gusting wind and bouts of driving rain.

Hockey

# Lancashire keep on winning way

By Joyce Whitehead  
Four of the five territorial tournaments are in full swing. The East of Scotland, the South of Scotland, the West of Scotland, and the North of Scotland are all in progress.

Hockey

# For the record

PORT WASHINGTON: International Under-19 Hockey Championship. The United States won the title by defeating Canada 3-1.

Hockey

# Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: The New York Rangers won the title by defeating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-2.

# Cox and Lloyd face tough task

By Rex Bellamy  
Mark Cox and David Lloyd, the British Davis Cup pair, will play Brian Gottfried and Raul Ramirez, former French and Wimbledon champions in October, on the first round of the Davis Cup in Hobart, Tasmania.

# Two newcomers for Davis Cup

Melbourne, Dec 27—Australia's Mark Cox and David Lloyd, the British Davis Cup pair, will play Brian Gottfried and Raul Ramirez, former French and Wimbledon champions in October, on the first round of the Davis Cup in Hobart, Tasmania.

# A midget among giants

By Nicholas Harling  
The festive full in domestic basketball will be dramatically interrupted over the next four days by the appearance of a handful of the world's top club sides at Crystal Palace.

# Two newcomers for Davis Cup

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## Sidney Weighell on the critical need for Labour Party reform

## What Labour must do to avoid another defeat

Those of us in the trade union movement who seek reforms within the Labour Party have noted its failure, electorally and organizationally, and aim to make it strong again.

Our objective is a strengthened and unified party with policies relevant to British society at the threshold of the twenty-first century. The need for an inquiry by a balanced and representative committee has to be set against the backdrop of the last general election. This saw the largest post-war swing against a party in power—with the largest swing against Labour occurring among the young, the skilled workers, and the areas of greatest prosperity. The fact is that Labour is appealing to an aging sector of the population and to the least modern segments of society. We are doomed to further failure unless we can adjust our policies to meet the interests of those elements in the population which represent the future shape of British society.

We failed, therefore, because we failed to project the right policies. We need to generate a programme which provides a middle way between day-to-day pragmatism and an outdated socialist fundamentalism. It must be a coherent programme and it must have a vision (the Tories at the last general election were able to persuade people that they had an over-arching view of society). It needs to balance the commitment to social justice without which we cannot exist as a party with the recognition that in an affluent and property-owning democracy people are far more concerned than hitherto with the protection of their individual material stake in society.

We failed also because we failed to reconcile our own internal differences. We failed in an immediate and practical sense because as an organization we lack the resources—of finance, of manpower, of imagination, required to fight modern election campaigns.

We need the right policies. We need to be united behind those policies, and we need a modern,

well-organized party based on an expanding membership.

The present system by which we evolve policies in the party is clearly inadequate. Party policy at the moment is for the most part generated by a small, London-based committee around the National Executive Committee. The policies thus created are then endorsed—and, very often, worse, amended—on the basis of a hasty and normally quite superficial debate at annual conference. It is not surprising that the commitments that we enter into are unrealistic. Because they do not stand up to the realities, such policies are abandoned by ministers almost immediately. Ministers are then forced to fall back on the civil servants who are not primarily guided by the interests of those the Labour Party is in power to serve. This is the self-created source of division and dissent within the party.

We need to adopt a more painstaking and responsible approach towards forming our policies. It is ludicrous that annual conferences should be required to take an ill-considered view on 30 major policy statements and find that none can be implemented. It is far more sensible that it should examine three policy areas in detail, with the confidence that they are going to be carried out by a Labour government. Why cannot the British Labour Party take a leaf out of the book of the German Social Democrats at their biennial congress? The Germans restrict the plenary sessions to two days out of the five, and spend the rest of the time with delegates studying policy proposals in detail and reporting back to the full conference with a recommendation for approval.

It is not only the intensity with which we consider the policies that we are going to place before the British people that needs to be changed. The whole policy-making process needs to be broadened to include the views of the party at large. There is also a guarantee that the policies will better reflect the interests of the electorate as a whole. Policy-making must be driven back

**Sidney Weighell:  
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to the grass roots of the movement. Constituency Labour Parties and affiliated organizations must be consulted at the initial stage and not presented with a fait accompli. This could take the form of an invitation to comment on and amend a brief statement prepared by the party's research department.

The next stage could involve the regional conference. At present, they fulfill no useful function. Why cannot they be reorganized so as to devote one of their two days to an intensive discussion on one or two "issues of the year" on the basis of the submissions received from the constituencies and the trade unions? The agreed recommendations of the regional conferences could then be forwarded as the basis of discussion and debate at annual conference. The specialized sections of conference would then act in effect as composing meetings, but in

session for a whole day or longer and seeking to pull together only 11 regional conference resolutions.

The effect of this proposal would be to diminish the role of the NEC in policy-making and to broaden the whole process. Yet clearly the NEC will retain a key influence on party policy. For this reason, it is necessary that the NEC should be representative of the party as a whole. Because it is influencing policies which will need to be put into practice, it ought also to be as familiar as possible with the problems of implementing policy. The NEC in its present constitution meets neither of these criteria. It certainly does not contain any representation of those involved in applying policy at the local government level.

In practice, among the politicians proper on the NEC, there is only a small minority with past experience or future prospects of

exercising government responsibility. On this basis, therefore, there is a case for opening up the NEC to include representation for local councillors and for representation of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

The other problem is that the constituency section of the NEC seriously over-represents the strength of the so-called left within the Labour Party. Because the constituency section contains the most active NEC members (and there is a lesson for the trade union in that), this left-wing bias is damaging and divisive for the party.

The plain fact is that, taken over all, there probably is a broad left-wing majority in the constituency parties. Yet, any active Labour Party member knows that the ratio of left to right is not 7:3—the present political complexion of the NEC's constituency section. Clearly, the present voting mechanism is

grossly distorting the true range of views in the constituencies.

One way of gaining a more representative cross-section of the party on the NEC would be to place voting for the NEC constituency members at a more local level: hence the proposal that the regional conferences should elect representatives to the NEC. This would have the merit of ensuring a more grass roots relationship between the NEC representatives and the party. It would also reflect the more important role of the regional conferences as proposed above.

This proposal for regional conference NEC representatives would not necessarily exclude a continuation of an annual conference-elected constituency section. However, even if there is a case for this, it is very difficult to see the case for continuing with the NEC women's section. The sole justification for this section is positive discrimination in favour of an under-represented group. Yet the sad fact is that over the years the existence of a women's section has not had the effect of favouring the participation of women in the party, as can be seen by the declining number of women MPs. There need to be other remedies to achieve a higher participation of women in the party. In principle, it is contradictory to argue against discrimination between the sexes in society at large and at the same time, to discriminate massively in favour of women as the Labour Party does. There may nonetheless be a case for a representative of women on the NEC.

Setting the framework for sensible policies and a unified leadership is one thing, getting the message across to the membership, and that through a good organization, which has manpower and money, are essential. Obviously, policies more in tune with present-day requirements will make the party more attractive to potential members. These members will have to be brought out, and there is no substitute for individual effort and political will for that.

The Labour Party must resume its role as a campaigning party.

After long years in local and central government, it may be that we have become too much a party concerned with administering society and too little concerned with changing it. We have almost certainly concentrated on generalized ideological solutions at the expense of dealing with the real problems that concern people in their localities. Yet, one of the great contemporary trends in British society is the proliferation of groups concerned with specific causes—protection for the elderly, for the homeless, for battered women, for child poverty—and with community problems. The party must get to grips, become identified with such issues at the local level, and in doing so it will win new recruits into the party.

We also need to win elections, and for this we need a soundly financed national organization. It appears to be the case that the trade unions have come to the end of their tether as far as extra money for the party is concerned. The constituency parties, however, have not. They can raise approximately £1m each year, but naturally most of this goes on local organization with only a small residue for the central party. Even with increased contributions, there is unlikely to be much extra available for the central party in a period of high inflation.

All this poses the question of state finance for political parties. As far as the Labour Party is concerned, the objection has always been that state funding might encourage the leadership to distance itself from the base—the trade unions and the constituencies. That is a risk which must be recognized frankly. Yet, as a result of recent conference decisions and the changes in policy-making proposed here, there would appear to be some guarantees against this: and, more important, less incentive. The benefits of state-funding are crystal clear—especially a level playing field for parties like the Swedish and German Social Democrats are compared with our own "penny-farthing" machine locally and nationally.

The author is general secretary, National Union of Railmen.

## Will theology finally topple the Ayatollah?

Charles Douglas-Home analyses the influences

at work behind the scenes in Iran:

'The other senior Ayatollahs do not accept Khomeini's leadership in theological matters'

Behind the political differences which have arisen between Ayatollah Khomeini's regime in Tehran and the demands for regional autonomy for Azerbaijan, led by Ayatollah Shariat Madari, a much more fundamental theological argument is taking root.

Since the February revolution in Iran, most western opinion seems to have been mesmerized by Khomeini's rhetoric, and his fundamentalist approach to religion. However, though his rhetorical methods may have been disapproved of, it has been assumed that his doctrine must be unarguable. The world outside Islam feels unqualified to question his Islamic credentials. In Iran itself that is not the case; though his dictatorial methods—censorship, almost summary justice and the arbitrary terror of armed gangs—have all helped to cower legitimate and authoritative criticism of Khomeini's religious doctrine. The criticism has become more evident since Ayatollah Shariat Madari has been thrust into greater prominence and opposition over the regional autonomy question. This has given fresh significance to his religious dispute with Khomeini about the role and authority of the clergy in politics.

Khomeini's Islamic constitution would establish a supreme religious figure (presumably himself) as the ultimate political authority—and an executive one at that. His vision of an Islamic government was first revealed in a series of lectures when he was an exile in Iraq and now translated into a French booklet. He maintains that since the Prophet Mohammed, on the orders of God, set up a government of Islam, that model should apply at all times. Although the Shiite sect of Islam, as practised in Iran, exalts a kind of second coming from a "hidden imam"—until when all government is theoretically illegitimate—Khomeini argues that it is not feasible to do without an Islamic government during that interregnum. He cites the writings of several Islamic theologians in support of his conten-

tion that the clergy, and only the clergy, are entitled to be the inheritors of the Prophet's temporal, as well as spiritual, authority.

The sources are not in dispute, though Khomeini's interpretation of them is. However, even before this interpretation is debated, the question of whether or not in theological matters Khomeini is any more authoritative than his fellow Ayatollahs is self-resolved. Periodically in Shiite Islam, consensus of Ayatollahs assigns a leadership role in theology to one of their number, after which they would defer to his authority. The last Ayatollah to hold that kind of first among equals position was Burujirdi who died in 1960. But even he did not venture too far into political matters.

The other senior Ayatollahs do not accept Khomeini's leadership in theological matters. His dominance derives from the fact that at present he has the political authority and physical power to lay down the law; but they are coming to question the nature of that law.

When the constitution was assembled in the summer there was much criticism of the clause which provided for the Velayat-e-Faqih—the tutelage, or control, of the clergy—over all aspects of government and the law. There were criticisms even from mullahs, but because nobody prominent spoke out, their views went unreported.

However, Khomeini's proposal to establish a theocratic authority as the supreme institution of government lays claim to direct political power in the name of religion for the first time in the 1300-year-old history of Islam, and Shariat Madari and his followers maintain that it goes against the whole Islamic tradition. In the Shiite sect, extreme ideologists tend to assert that all temporal government is a usurpation until the "hidden Imam" reappears, but such an idealistic position has never been practical politics in a sect which was quite willing to be appointed the official state religion of Iran in the 1940s. However, it was introduced then as much for nationalist reasons as for religious ones. The Savard Shahs wanted to exploit its ideology of separatism so as to detach Iran from the bulk of the Islamic empire ruled by their enemies, the Turks. It was, therefore, necessary to foster a religious enthusiasm which both expressed Persian nationalism and separated Persian religion from the Turkish variety.

Khomeini argues that his own, so narrow, version of Shiite Islam should now be applied universally, whereas the Sunni tradition among the much more numerous Arabs is an inherent part of the Islamic empire and consultative version of Islam that the Persian one. In Iran, there seems to be a reverence for heredity, and an almost mystical allegiance to the idea of chiefdom, personified by the way Khomeini has become such a natural successor to the Shah.

Indeed, Khomeini's insistence of the uniqueness of his position in Islam has already attracted some criticism even in Tehran. Letters are now circulating which draw attention to his oft-stated warning that if his Iranian revolution is defeated, Islam will be defeated.

Is he greater than Hussein, who was defeated 1300 years ago without his sect disappearing, ask his critics? Is he greater than all the other Caliphs and Islamic leaders who have preceded him, often in defeat, while Islam survives? They warn him of the danger in identifying Islam too closely with any state or government, both of which come and go, whereas one should assume Islam will last for ever.

Shariat Madari's own criticism of Khomeini's Islamic constitution, and in particular the Velayat-e-Faqih clause, have been quite explicit. He says there is no such concept of tutelage in the Koran other than when there is an orphan or where a family has no tutor. In these circumstances, and conceivably within a state which only has a provisional government, some temporary tutelage is permitted, but the concept of a permanent Velayat-e-Faqih, he says, has no legal significance, even if one could be sure what was meant by it. He has called for another constituent assembly to resolve the contradiction between his view that the people are sovereign and Khomeini's view that sovereignty somehow is assigned to the "great priest". Surely, he argues, if the people were initially asked in a referendum whether or not they wanted an Islamic republic, then the fundamental sovereignty must lie with them.

Yet even Ali, say his critics, used to forgive his opponents and never showed his personal feelings to distort justice. As for hostages, there are numerous instances in Islamic history where the Prophet Mohammed received emissaries from his enemies and said that traitors, even with one's enemies, should be respected.

The criticism exists; but there is no obvious forum or institution from where it can be launched as an authoritative challenge to Khomeini's interpretation. Islam is an unstructured religion, without a formal hierarchy. Thus when a senior figure, such as Khomeini, violates the tradition of consensus and uses an unscrupulous mixture of terror and propaganda to underwrite his natural hold over the masses, there is an alternative focus to which theological critics can turn.

In the orthodox world of Sunni Islam, the Al Ashar theological centre in Cairo holds a special position of authority and would be expected to deal with any such deviation within orthodox Islam. For instance, it held that Shi'ism was an official heresy until 1954. Only then did Al Ashar finally recognize Shi'ism as the fifth authorized school within Islam. Though this embrace should now make it easier for Al Ashar theologians to criticize Khomeini's doctrine, hitherto such criticisms have been muffled and confined to obscure reminders that Islam is Islamic and they are faithful to the Islamic faith rather than the vengeful authority as espoused by the Ayatollahs.

Ver it is rather as though some extreme Calvinist ideologue had set himself up to speak for all Christians. So both the Sunni world and the more pragmatic Shiite theologians within Iran must be alarmed by the violence of Khomeini's rhetoric, which threatens to undermine not only their own religious authority within the community but, in the outside world, to give Islam a bad name it does not deserve. When will they speak out?

Graham Watson, joined Curtis Brown, the literary agency, in 1947 as a literary agent. There was a grand dinner given for him by his friends, associates and clients (it would be hard to distinguish one category from the other), which nearly 200 of the best known people in the literary world attended, to mark his retirement as chairman of Curtis Brown.

A career of more than 30 years as an agent began because he could not stand working for The Spectator. "I was employed in a very distasteful and unattractive way at The Spectator which was largely owned by my father. I worked for the then editor, Mr. Wilson Harris, who, in retrospect, was probably the best editor The Spectator had this century."

Unfortunately they did not get on. "After a year and a half I put an advertisement in the personal column of The Times: 'Young man; experience in the book trade, looking for a job'—and got a dozen replies, one of which was from Curtis Brown."

It was a propitious moment. "The book trade immediately after the war was enormously prosperous because anything which was in the form of a book sold like mad—if you had the London telephone directory you could have sold it. The changes came a lot of people and a lot of continental refugees, started, and there was a flowering of some extremely good new publishers, like Weidenfeld and Nicolson, Thames and Hudson, and André Deutsch."

New English publishers did not make quite the same kind of success because "the continentalers are cleverer and they were jumpier—the English are lazier and they are frightened of success. In America the whole dislike people who are successful."

"My main task at Curtis Brown was to run the American side of the business, and we were selling then about 350 books a year, with an American origin. We later concentrated on the home grown English authors. There is nothing so rewarding as dealing with an author who is a success."

"When I started off in the book trade it was really a cottage industry. In 1939 there was a turnover of £10m.; this

## The man on the side of the authors

year it's £475m, and that increase is of course enormously beyond the devaluation of money."

"Fred Warburg could write an autobiographical book then called *An Agent's Life*. I remember now it is a rubbish, competitive profession. The trade has become enormously richer, and enormously more professional. Publishers are doing their jobs rather well, though I think the appalling service which they give to booksellers, so that the reader has to wait four to six weeks to get his order after he goes into a bookshop. Nobody knows why it doesn't seem to happen in Germany or America."

"I think the pleasure involved in being an agent is the tremendously close and intimate relationship that the agent has with the author, in many ways like that of a doctor or solicitor, and is very rewarding if one is able to feel a necessary cog in the wheel—it's nothing to do with the financial return one gets."

"For most authors writing is a pretty isolated profession, and they have to be on their body they feel is on their side—which doesn't necessarily apply to a publisher. Sometimes the publisher's interest conflicts with the author's interest, where there can be no sense of any sort with an author and an agent in conflict, as the agent is recompensed to the extent that the author is recompensed."

"Like a doctor or a solicitor, he will not reveal the inner workings of his relationship with his authors, though he does admit that certain books

would never have been written if it had not been for his influence or advice."

He met Wilfred Thesiger through George Orwell, then a client. "He said that this man had an absolutely fantastic collection of photographs in his flat following the whole of his expedition in Arabia and the mountains of Afghanistan, and the marshlands of Iraq. I got in touch, but felt there was nothing we could do. But I went round and looked at the photographs. He was so shy and modest, and I established some sort of contact and convinced him that he was wrong in thinking that his interest was purely personal, and that he had something to say." The result was *Arabian Sands* and *Mardi*, a great reward.

Silvestra Longford wrote, at my suggestion, a lead-in book on Queen Victoria, and I suggested she should then do a book on Mary, Queen of Scots. At this precise moment she was offered the previously unthought-of papers of the Duke of Wellington. A Guardian, two marvellous books. At this point Antonia Fraser, whom I hadn't previously met, rang me and said she was passionately interested in Mary, Queen of Scots, and could she make over the biography?"

"After a long time of involvement on the managerial side of the firm, which has been probably an eightfold increase in business, I can hope to leave this to other hands. The agent's job, which is dealing with authors, with so enormously attractive and rewarding that it is only with reluctance that I give it up. So he really isn't going to give it up, but will continue to do most of his old chores."

"Looking back on 30 years, though publishers do not necessarily love agents, they have by now certainly accepted the fact that the agent is an important part of the book trade."

His own memoir, *Book Society* will be published on March 20, by Andre Deutsch. "The agent is no longer regarded as a common villain. I recommend it a more enjoyable way of earning one's living it would be impossible to devise."

Philippa Toomey

## LAS VEGAS DIARY

## Christmas gold, glitter and greed

as Vegas had some interesting visitors over the Christmas holidays. California Governor Jerry Brown was there and although he didn't gamble he talked away some \$150,000 richer as a result of a pop concert presidential fund-raiser organised for him by his lady friend Linda Ronstadt.

Robert Redford the actor was too here at a party thrown in his honour to celebrate the penning of his new film *The Electric Horseman* which was not largely in the gambling town.

And the Davis family came, too, that is, my wife, Sally, and my children, Rebecca, 10 and Igon seven. You might well ask why would we choose to spend Christmas in what must be the world's most unlikely place for it. Well, Christmas can often be rather dull in California. Americans make more of a fuss of Thanksgiving and the whole atmosphere of ocean, sand and palm

trees where we live is simply not conducive to Yuletide. Consequently we decided to go to the whole hog and head for the gambling capital of the world, reasoning that if the holidays were going to be untraditional anyway, we might as well add the element of the bizarre.

I've been to Las Vegas, of course, many times before to cover prize fights, political conventions and star openings. But never with my children. We drove the 300 miles from Los Angeles with not a stop sign or traffic light to impede our progress, through the heart of the scrubby Mojave desert, cold and bleak looking at this time of the year with twisted cacti and tumbleweed. Through an assortment of small towns on the way, we passed more than pit shops, places where it's 120 degrees in the summer, cold and empty in the winter.

Within an hour and a half of crossing the state line between California and Nevada we headed down a hill and there it was in the bowl between the Sierra Nevada mountains. We checked into the Hilton Hotel because it has a youth hostel where parents can unload their children at all hours

of the day and night and go off to gamble or see shows. Such was not our intention and in any case over Christmas the shows are all closed down, the only time during the entire year that the locals pause for breath.

The Hilton has taken a different direction from some of the other giant, high rise hotels on the Las Vegas Strip, where they sit shoulder to shoulder in overwhelming neon splendour. The Hilton has banished the high rollers in favour of conventions and family trade, and seems none the worse, business wise, for it. Las Vegas is not obviously Christmasy, still they try. The gigantic neon billboards outside hotels which generally proclaim "Sinatra is here" or "Ginko, Ginko, Ginko" now declare "Happy holidays" and "Good Yule to all gamblers".

Inside the casinos: "Oh come all ye faithful" is piped in, and indeed on Christmas the faithful were assembled, their hands seemingly glued to those fruit machine handles. Their attention seldom wandered except when transferring to the bingo parlour, the dice and card tables or the roulette wheels. The scantily clad change girls

handed over rolls of coins with such seasonal notes as "Good luck—and Merry Christmas". Children are not allowed to loiter in the casino though since the entire ground floor of most hotels is given over to gambling it's virtually impossible for them to avoid doing so. Our two found the whole process of gambling and slot machines, edge, open mouthed reacting excitedly as each flash of silver dollars indicated another jackpot winner.

Four miles from the high-priced casino strip is Las Vegas downtown, an even more garish street of casinos and hotels like the Four Queens, the Mint or the Plaza. It's here that the real Western atmosphere of Vegas can be seen. On the Strip it's cocktail dresses and Italian suits—here the mode of attire is more likely to be cowboy boots and fat bellies bulging under torn T-shirts.

The favoured libation here is still beer and the hotels sport poker tables, rather than bacarat rooms. They serve 24-hour gamblers' breakfasts for a mere 49 cents and all you can eat lunches for \$1.49. On Christmas eve it's obviously not time off for the workers in one of Las Vegas's

most popular industries. I spotted a few obvious ladies of the night, parading their wares on the pavement and the only apparent marks of the season were that the more detectives were stopping to exchange seasonal greetings.

We go in search of something for the children and discover Circus Circus, a huge hotel casino with a pink and white striped building and neon stop circus acts perform literally over the heads of the gamblers. It's shoulder to shoulder humanity. Downstairs is the inevitable spread of gambling tables and slot machines. But the first floor is given over to an endless funfair with all of the traditional hoopla and games, modestly priced and easy to win. Ten dollars less a good hour and virtually every child emerges clutching a stuffed animal won by a father's prowess at shooting, bowling or in our case throwing darts. A suitably ethnic still.

But after a couple of hours, even our children's tolerance for noise and non-stop tumult, which seems to be normally vast, is worn out and they want to return to our hotel for a rest and for one of the delights

of being away from home—anywhere but here.

Except for the occasional hotel staff member passing through with wrapped parcels, there's really no indication whatever that it's Christmas eve. We draw our curtains and watch the sun setting over the desert, an ever changing panorama of pink and purple colours. It is quite beautiful, even though the windows are filthy. Obviously those who come here do not draw their curtains. As night falls we gather round the TV and watch the singing Christmas carols piped in "live" from San Francisco. We drink some champagne, with blackberry juice for the children and have our own little Christmas party. Christmas day dawns sunny and chilly. It's a myth that the desert is always warm and the Vegas nights are much colder than anything we used to in southern California.

The family discussion centres on where to go for Christmas dinner. The local papers are full of advertisements for mammoth Christmas buffets. Dining in Las Vegas is, unfortunately, a quantity over quality experience. Literally roomfuls of food

are offered. The doors are opened and the starving hordes, who have lined up for hours to get in, attack. The groaning boards. Like ships cruises, part of the attraction of this town, is being able to gorge yourself for under \$2.25—a person's half price for children on the traditional turkey, with cranberry sauce, stuffing and mince pie, or ham, roast beef or halibut.

We decide that the buffet at the Showboat Hotel looks promising, but it turns out to be a vast, barrack-like place, attached to "the world's largest bowling alley". The decor is faded, with worn-out carpet, all red flock wallpaper and one look at the volume of food and we know we just can't stomach it. So we try downtown at the Golden Nugget, a magnificent gay nineties gaming house beautifully restored, all brass and mahogany and Victorians and we dine for Christmas in absolute contravention of tradition in a Chinese restaurant called unfortunatly the Lilly Langtry, on egg flower soup, sea rolls and Peking duck.

On once again on the downtown strip Christmas night hordes of young people, dressed

in their cars, their horns blaring. On the pavements however there's no aimless strolling. People are headed from one casino to another, all of the gambling halls are jammed. Guards stroll nonchalantly through, packing pistols and looking for trouble. They are in royal blues, bangles and gold, they look like the chorus in some strange western opera. America does not recognize Boxing Day as a holiday, so on the 26th we decided to head home. It was during the night and the mountains surrounding the city are white with newly fallen snow. Up there it really looks like Christmas.

The front page of the local paper the day after the holiday, reminds us once again that this is still a frontier town. "Local vigilantes fire bomb drug dealers' home."

We pack. The trip has been a success. The children have been to Las Vegas, but our daughter offers a succinct judgement on the town. "Las Vegas," she writes to a friend, "is an interesting place. It's very bright, very noisy and very greedy."

Ivor Davis











# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

**Bryant**  
Industrial  
Construction  
021 704 5111

**Stock markets**  
414.7 down 2.8  
to 65.46 down 0.02

**Oil**  
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## Japan heads for first trade deficit in years as growth slumps

From Peter Hazelhurst.

Tokyo, Dec 27  
Japan's spectacular post-war rate of economic growth is expected to dwindle to less than 4 per cent next year, the lowest level in two decades of rapid industrialization, economists claimed today.

The country is expected to suffer a trade and current account deficit this year for the first time in 16 years and the trend will continue to hamper the economy during the coming year.

The Federation of Japanese Economic Organizations (Keizai-sen) said the government was unlikely to reach its target of 4.8 per cent growth.

Mr Toshio Doko, president of Keizai-sen, said that rising oil prices would have an adverse impact on the economy and at best Japan could expect only 4 per cent growth next year.

"Japan might not even attain a 4 per cent growth rate if the price of oil is raised again during the next fiscal year", he said.

The Mitsubishi Research Institute (MRI) paints a gloomier picture claiming that the economy will grow at only 3.5 per cent in real terms.

MRI says that the combined growth rate of the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and Italy is expected to decline to minus 0.5 per cent and that the volume of world imports will expand a mere 2 per cent in 1980.

Japan's exports will be re-

duced by a depreciation in the value of the yen. Deeper oil is likely to push up the cost of imports to \$118,000m (£52,670m) this year, a 40.5 per cent rise over last year's level.

As a result, Japan is expected to have a \$2,300 trade deficit at the end of this fiscal year.

"The current account balance is expected to mark a deficit of \$13,800m," MRI says.

It adds that with rising oil prices "there will be little hope of a rapid return to a surplus in our balance of payments."

"Exports are expected to retain their momentum in fiscal 1980 with a 6.4 per cent increase in volume and a 5.3 rise in prices. This will result in a customs clearance value of \$117,600m, a 12 per cent increase over the level in fiscal 1979."

MRI predicts that the total value of imports will soar to a record \$136,900m.

As a result Japan's trade account is likely to be \$5,500m in deficit next year.

Notwithstanding a stable improvement in our balance in 1979, the current account deficit is expected to reach \$14,500m. Hence, the Japanese economy will be faced with a return to constraints on the balance of payments which has become a virtually non-existent phenomenon throughout the 1970s," the MRI report adds.

Reinforcing these projections, the Yamauchi Research Institute, estimates the economy will expand by only 3.8 per cent next year.

## Assisted areas angry at choice of INMOS site

By Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

Britain's first factory for the production of standard micro-

circuits is to be set up at Bristol—subject to the Govern-

ment approving a second £25m

tranche.

But the choice of site

conducted by INMOS, the semi-

conductor company backed by

the National Enterprise Board,

was condemned by local

authorities in the north east

last night as a betrayal.

The company, expected to be

employing about 1,000 workers

at its Bristol plant by 1983, by

the end of 1984 it plans jobs

for a further 3,000, many of

whom will be at a much larger

unit in one of Britain's assisted

areas.

It had been widely expected

that the first factory would be

located in an assisted area,

with the north east and south

Wales the leading contenders.

Councillor Michael Campbell,

leader of the Tyne and Wear

County Council, has night de-

scribed the decision as "nothing

less than a severe kick in the

teeth, not only for Tyne and

Wear but for every assisted

area in the United Kingdom.

"There will be a tremendous

victory from all local authorities

and trades unions in the north

east at this betrayal by the

INMOS directors," which

appears to flout all authority."

Tyne and Wear had offered

a £100,000 financial package to

INMOS to locate its first

facility at Washington New

Town but yesterday Mr Ian

Barron, executive director of

the company, said that the

Bristol decision had been taken

after detailed study and care-

ful evaluation of 230 locations.

INMOS began operations 18

months ago with financial back-

ing of £25m from the NEB. The

company has established a tech-

nology centre at Bristol and a

development centre at Colorado

Springs in America.

The production unit will

start operations in 1982 and

will be combined with the

technology centre.

The NEB directors met last

week and approved the site and

the second £25m for INMOS. A

recommendation for approval

will be submitted soon to Sir

Keith Joseph, Secretary of

State for Industry, who has

consistently emphasized the

important catalytic role he sees

for the NEB in new technology.

Announcement of the factory

location is seen as an attempt

by INMOS to secure early

ministerial consent.

So far INMOS has drawn

\$8m of the original £25m

advanced by the NEB; the pro-

jected Bristol expansion and

other build-up of resources will

account for a further £24m.

Yesterday Mr Barron indicated

that a decision on the planned

larger second factory would

not be taken for at least two

years. He explained that fund-

ing beyond the £50m already

allocated by the NEB was not

expected because the company

thought it would be able to

generate sufficient cash for

further investment from sales.

An rival venture between GEC

and Fairchild, an American

company, is due to start trial

production from plant in

Colorado Springs and at the

United Kingdom technology

centre.

chairman of GEC-Fairchild as a

board member of the NEB.

Mr Barron expected that the

board and Mr Clayton would

behave with "proper pro-

priety" in their dealings with

INMOS and stressed that the

GEC-Fairchild venture was not

considered by INMOS as a

direct competitor.

At present, the NEB holds

a 70 per cent stake in INMOS

and employees hold the balance.

But in line with the Govern-

ment's desire to see the NEB

disposing of its shareholdings,

INMOS expects to secure

private investment within a few

years.

The Bristol factory will be

responsible for the manufac-

ture of memories and micro-

processors developed in

Colorado Springs and at the

United Kingdom technology

centre.

## National Airlines go to Pan Am in takeover worth \$395m

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Dec 27

President Carter has approved

one of the largest mergers in

aviation history—a \$395m

(about £176m) takeover by Pan

American World Airways of

National Airlines. The merger

is expected to become effective

on Monday.

Pan Am will now rank second

only to United Airlines as the

largest commercial airline com-

pany in the United States and

for the first time, it will have

a substantial domestic route

network to strengthen its formi-

dable international system. The

takeover of National is bound

to make Pan Am a bigger com-

petitor for America's other lead-

ing international carrier, Trans

World Airlines, which already

has a domestic system.

Pan Am will take over all of

National's domestic routes, but

it will not definitely win

National's London to Miami

route. The Civil Aeronautics

Board will hold hearings to

determine whether it should

now be given to another com-

pany.

Pan Am first made an offer

for National more than 16

months ago, but both Eastern

Airlines and Texas Inter-

national Airlines also made

offers and a fierce stock

market struggle developed. The

Civil Aeronautics Board im-

posed limits on the amount of

National shares each of the

competitors could buy. It then

started a lengthy investigation

into the various merger

alternatives.

Texas International eventu-

ally withdrew its offer.

Gas prices

showing

20 pc rise

By Nicholas Hirst

Energy Correspondent

Gas prices on new and re-

newed contracts to large indus-

trial customers were increased

by 19 per cent in the third

quarter of 1979, according to



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## Merchant banks prepare for a decade of change

The news that Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is finally planning to acquire the rest of Antony Gibbs is a fitting conclusion to a year when there has been an unusually high degree of activity in merchant banking.

Takeover rumours have continued to keep interest alive in some of the smaller banks like Brown Shipley and more especially Rea Brothers, whose stakes in a number of Scottish investment trusts in general and Furness Withy in particular make it a potentially rich prize when the chairman Mr Walter Salomon retires.

Dawnay Day, which has only just stopped bleeding from the secondary banking crisis, actually found itself on the wrong end of a bid from Rothschild Investment Trust, though the chief attraction here was the unit trust and insurance interests rather than its meagre banking side.

Others like Robert Fleming, which is even now having to accommodate itself to the new Banking Act by seeking authorized status, have begun to seek out fresh pastures in international fund management, which many merchant bankers see as one of the more attractive growth points in the 1980s, while Kleinwort Benson has gone one

Outside of banking, pension fund and other investment management business provides the sort of stable income investors like and with gold and silver reaching new highs daily amid hectic trading their bullion dealing subsidiaries are going to do very well indeed.

Longer-term, however, the merchant banks are still going to have to carve out new areas of business since the existing level of activity is unlikely to be able to support the number of banks operating now. Some will fall by the wayside or be taken over—Gibbs for example has found it hard going to find a new role over the last few years with the move into personal financial planning good example of how not to diversify—but there is a chance that the top tier, especially with the easing of exchange controls, could grow to rival their United States counterparts.

Highland Distilleries' shares stand 15p above the 130p bid from Hiram Walker, the Canadian distiller. So the stock market—and one suspects Hiram—is satisfied that the offer will have to be increased if it is to succeed. But first Hiram is determined to deliver some body punches to soften up Highland's defence which is almost bound to be based on asset value and the potential of Highland's leading scotch brand, Famous Grouse.

Hiram accepts that Highland's assets are undervalued, but nevertheless points out that its offer is worth 21 times Highland's book value. Revaluation of assets could produce a value of 113p a share, according to Edinburgh brokers, Bell, Laurie, MacGregor. That would still leave a fair premium in Hiram's present terms.

But the key—and Hiram recognizes the point—is the incestuous relationship between Highland and Robertson & Baxter, one of Scotland's largest private companies, which is in turn controlled by the Robertson family. Highland treats its 35.4 per cent stake in R & B as an investment, simply taking dividends and not consolidating on the view that it is unable to exercise sufficient control over R & B policy.

But valuation of the R & B policy, in Highland's books at only £0.2m, is going to be crucial. On a net asset basis it could be worth £12m to Highland, enough together with a rather less conservative revaluation of stocks and distilleries, to put Hiram's present offer out of court on asset grounds. This, then, is the soft underbelly of Highland's defence. It may have to argue that an investment which it has always kept very much at arm's length, is now so valuable as to make Hiram's offer terms hopelessly unpunished. Shareholders should stand back and watch events unfold.

### Base metals Little room for speculators

Strong precious metal prices often encourage speculative interest in base metals. So with gold, silver and platinum all at record levels, and looking set to go up further, it would not be surprising if speculators moved into base metals.

Speculative pressure on base metal prices is, rarely more than temporary. It does not imply a general hardening next year of copper, lead and nickel prices. The danger though is this will mistakenly be interpreted as heralding the long-awaited revival in base metals.

New York speculation in base metals has been fuelled by inflation, a disappointing Wall Street, and the need by stockbrokers, who are not subject to the same demarcation rules over trading as in the United Kingdom, to maintain profits after the abolition of fixed commissions.

The fact, however, is that industrial demand for copper is likely to be weak for most of 1980. Nickel could offer speculative interest because high energy costs will deter refiners from adding to capacity. Aluminium benefits from the same caution, combined with its increasing use in cars to save energy. Lead supplies have tended to lag behind demand.

This is all quite normal, and reflects the ebb and flow of markets. Each of these metals offers a short-term speculative opportunity, but unless real industrial demand is unexpectedly sustained next year, it is improbable that prices will move up into a generally higher trading range.

The course of true love cannot be expected to run smooth, and, once again, our annual calculation of the true lover's Christmas as described in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* has proved an unpredictable economic indicator.

This year's total, which Business Diary spent most of yesterday calculating, comes to £4,394—substantially less than in 1976 or 1974 and only 15.55 per cent up since the index was last published in 1977.

The index's unpredictability may have something to do with the unrepresentative shopping sample chosen by a true lover who insists on sending 184 birds over 12 days—but has to do also with the way such figures are prepared.

For instance, our nurserymen have reclassified four-foot pear trees. They now call them bushes. The decision to stick with trees, not bushes, cost us an extra £42. If our true lover nailed an even-ready corpse in the branches, instead of sending a daily live partridge, the saving would be £51.

London Zoo, which used to quote for some of its livestock, now declines, saying that it has not bought or sold for 15 years. This casts doubt on the validity of earlier estimates. Worse, Palmer's pet shop, to whom it referred us for turtle doves,

David Blake explains why the workings of the Community budget are unhelpful to Bri

## Mrs Thatcher's EEC payments problem

Can Mrs Thatcher achieve her goal of reducing Britain's contribution to the EEC from the level of £2,000m to zero?

The tables on this page, illustrating how funds flow into and out of the European Community, show just what a hard task the Prime Minister has in trying to cut back Britain's net contribution to the Community budget.

If we take as a rough measure of equity in taxation the ability to pay as measured by wealth (or at least income) then the United Kingdom both pays too much into the Community and gets too little out. The reason for both of these disadvantages are buried deep in the structure of Community rules.

Let us take the side of the equation first. The rules for raising the Community's revenue were rushed through in 1970 just before serious negotiations on British membership of the Community began. A system for paying for Community spending, above all agriculture, was one of the prices which the French Government extracted in return for allowing the talks on enlargement to begin at all. A consequence of this was that rules for raising money fitted the context of the original six members of the EEC—France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Community money, from 1980 onwards, will come from three sources. These are levies on imports of food covered by the common agricultural policy, tariffs on industrial goods and a share of the value added tax which is levied on all goods.

As the large table shows, contrary to common belief, our trade in industrial goods does much more to increase the amount we pay into the Community budget than does our import of food. There has been a definite switch in the sources

### WHERE THE MONEY WILL COME FROM IN 1980 (£m)

	UK	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	EEC
Tariffs	990	222	81	998	505	39	282	3,115
Food levies	(26.7)	(6.7)	(2.4)	(29.9)	(15.1)	(1.1)	(3.8)	(90.7)
(%)	(2.7)	(3.0)	(0.8)	(3.0)	(3.0)	(0.3)	(1.4)	(2.9)
(VAT)	989	267	150	1,889	1,405	49	621	5,899
(%)	(17.30)	(4.54)	(2.82)	(32.8)	(24.67)	(0.88)	(10.9)	(8.05)
Total	2,150	446	254	3,181	2,086	94	720	10,483
(%)	(20.48)	(6.07)	(2.42)	(30.12)	(19.98)	(0.9)	(6.93)	(100)
% of EEC gnp	6.04	4.64	2.84	30.92	24.36	0.9	60.23	6.39

Source: EEC Commission; COM(79) 342—Converted at current exchange rates from national currencies to ECU. Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding.

from which we buy our food supplies, with other EEC countries gaining at the expense of countries in the rest of the world.

Such switching costs down our contribution to the EEC budget, because we do not pay levies on food imports. It does not, however, reduce the cost to us of the EEC policy of dear food. It just means that instead of paying levies which are used to buy up expensive food for storage, British consumers have to pay high prices direct to farmers in Community countries.

So any examination of the costs of EEC policies, which looks solely at budgetary payments will tend to underestimate the cost to Britain quite substantially.

But even if we do restrict ourselves in this way, we find that, on EEC Commission estimates, the only country whose gross contribution—that is, the amount of money going into the Community coffers—is significantly higher than would be expected, on the basis of its gross national product, is Britain. In 1980, on the basis of early drafts for the Community budget, we were expected to pay 20.48 per cent of the total cost compared to a gap which was 16.04 per cent of the Community total.

It is the very large quantity of customs duties which we pay over to the EEC which is responsible for this. Our extraordinary tendency to import

manufactured goods in the past few years is a prime source of our EEC finance problem as so much else.

Can anything be done to cut down Britain's contribution to Community funds? There is, in fact, a means already in existence for doing this, negotiated by the Labour Government. This gives a refund to any country which finds itself paying more than its fair share of the budget.

Unfortunately, the terms of this scheme, set up in Dublin in 1975, are so restrictive as to mean that the likely gains to Britain from this financial mechanism, as it is called, are likely to be small.

One of the proposals which the Commission has put forward for helping the United Kingdom is that some of the more onerous conditions should be relaxed so that we would be fairly sure of getting back between £300m and £400m.

But it is clear that in its present form this financial mechanism, the level of the Government's renegotiation, offers no substantial help to the United Kingdom.

It is, however, difficult to see much being done in the immediate future which would fundamentally alter the pattern of payments into the Community budget, even though the removal of restrictions proposed by the Commission would be a help.

Although Mrs Thatcher says that the payments into the budget are in a sense our money, they are not. They are money in any legal sense.

Other Community countries are most unlikely to be unwilling to tear up the tax rules of the Community just because one member wants to pay less. Indeed they realize that if they give in to our demands on this front, they will have to pay more.

Is there any hope that we can do something about the other side of the balance? As far as the budgetary balance goes, our far less than our total share of the Community's output would suggest. This is because we have so little farming compared to the rest of the EEC.

Clearly, 70 per cent of the Community expenditure goes on farm price support with huge sums of money being spent building up stockpiles of

### WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING IN 1979

	UK	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	France	Italy	Netherlands	EEC
On farm	1,147	129	296	786	8.8	371	359	2,506
(%)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)	(8.8)
On non-farm	1,053	317	207	1,103	1,405	18.7	361	5,377
(%)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)	(81.2)
Total	2,200	446	503	1,889	2,086	27.5	720	7,883
(%)	(28.0)	(6.0)	(6.5)	(23.8)	(26.4)	(3.5)	(9.2)	(100)

Source: EEC Commission; COM(79) 342—Converted at current exchange rates from national currencies to ECU. Figures may not add up to totals because of rounding.

### Technology

Now that the Government has agreed the 25 per cent share in ICL the last formal remnant of the national policy which shaped the formation of the company in 1968 is the continuing preference given to ICL in the procurement of large computers by central government.

This, too, is expected to end at the end of 1980, but the company's future development is likely to depend more on technology and a changing market place than on political factors.

Changes in technology have already altered the face of computer-related industries substantially. The original "mainframe" general-purpose computer manufacturers were not the companies which pioneered microcomputers; a new breed of microcomputer companies emerged. Similarly, the pioneers of microcomputers were a new breed of computer companies.

Formed in 1968 through the Government-backed merger of International Computers & Tabulators (ICT) and English Electric Computers, ICL remained essentially a mainframe company until 1976. Then it acquired the international operations of Singer Business Machines and the Singer/Cogor factory in New York, thus adding a substantial microcomputer-based business which has contributed much to ICL's growth.

Clearly, the increasing power and decreasing cost of microcomputer systems is changing the way in which users and

potential users of computing equipment view the available choice of hardware. Many of the emerging micro-products are for brand-new uses, but many are claimed to handle the "traditional" areas of business data-processing.

A recent Urwick Dynamics survey, published in *Computing* magazine, confirmed that companies are moving towards smaller machines. Even before the emergence of the micro, there was a tendency that the business community had become chafed with computing and its practitioners. Manufacturers pursued innovation while business sought continuity; programmers seemed more interested in the science of computing than

in the objectives of their business. The recent proliferation of micro-based "small business systems" has made things still worse for the user. They may give, or appear to give, independence and economy, but the economy may be outweighed by the costs of software support.

Dr Chris Wilson, managing director of ICL, noted recently: "We are living in a world in which the typical user-organization's management is being besieged on all sides by analysts with schemes for introducing mini or micro-computer projects in every area of the business."

"There is now hardly any flow of information in a business which is not a candidate for automatic processing, whether it be sense data for a robot, an automatic measurement or one of the usual forms of computer data."

Successful implementation of projects, Dr Wilson argues, will depend not only on a detailed knowledge of the particular business but also on familiarity with the hardware and software modules which are available as "bricks" from which to build computing systems.

Speaking at a European conference of the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP), Dr Wilson said: "Such building bricks may be available, but the business community has become chafed with computing and its practitioners. Manufacturers pursued innovation while business sought continuity; programmers seemed more interested in the science of computing than

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have less trouble in expanding their company. A computer system by the addition of cc can be expanded (if that is what the user wants) because interconnecting modules will be available.

For a given computer manufacturer, this can be both good and bad. It can now allow a manufacturer to enter a market place, but his own limitations are equally vulnerable. ICL's judgment must be that they will gain more than they lose.

In a wider sense, hardware and software packages modules could be developed that all types of micro, v and mainframe computer systems could be more easily assembled. For ICL, this could mean a new role for its Data Software Division.

At the small-machine end of the spectrum, ICL recently launched a new "systems for trading" policy under which microcomputers are being at a discount to systems both which were in the market a while and market the computer systems. The logical extension to this is that ICL products eventually will be on sale shops and other retail outlets.

Suggestions that large microcomputers will be the mainstay of computing and will out are premature. But the term of the market is being changed by the new technology.

Kenneth O'W

## Changes shaping the future of ICL



Dr Chris Wilson, managing director of ICL: overcoming computer incompatibility is one aim.

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## Business Diary: Christmas presence • Going for a song

One of the lesser-known seasonal festivities is the lunch ICI gives for its former directors, at which one rather unusual guest this year was Bob Malpas.

Malpas stood out among the other board alumni in that he did not retire—indeed he was 51 when he went and the youngest member—but quit last year to become number two in Ralph Landau's United States proprietary technology group, Halcon International.

He joined ICI on his twenty-first birthday, leaving 30 years later after only three years on the board. He went from a company employing 150,000 people to one with a payroll of 700.

On the other hand, he had returned to this country after 12 years of ICI service abroad not only to a job on the board, but to taxation at 83 per cent on his salary of between £55,000 and £60,000.

Tax relief on mortgages stops at loans over £25,000, whereas

there is no ceiling in the United States. The United States top income tax rate was lower, and he could therefore expect to take home "several times more".

Malpas had two home thoughts from abroad when I spoke to him in London yesterday. One, he said, was that though ICI was a top-class firm "the fact that he, and more recently deputy chairman Sir Ray Pannock, had decided to move on before retirement was 'totally healthy'".

Two, the reduction of the top rate of income tax here to 60 per cent, much the same as he now pays in the United States, is not in itself enough for returning executives who want homes of a standard to which they have become accustomed.

The £25,000 limit should be scrapped, he said. "I'm told there's little prospect of this changing now the tax system has been changed".

For instance, our nurserymen have reclassified four-foot pear trees. They now call them bushes. The decision to stick with trees, not bushes, cost us an extra £42. If our true lover nailed an even-ready corpse in the branches, instead of sending a daily live partridge, the saving would be £51.

London Zoo, which used to quote for some of its livestock, now declines, saying that it has not bought or sold for 15 years. This casts doubt on the validity of earlier estimates. Worse, Palmer's pet shop, to whom it referred us for turtle doves,

confesses that the birds it sells at £10 a pair are really ring-necked, "but people call them turtle doves", so they will have to do.

French hens we have always taken to be red jungle fowl, this year costing £20 a pair. The French pair they would be cheaper if we bought chickens (cooked) from France.

Colly birds are blackbirds and the monopoly supplier of legally acceptable specimens, Thomas Thompson of Chester, quotes £10 for each aviary bred bird. But he fears more people get theirs for nothing by breaking bird protection laws, than ever buy from him.

Five gold rings we priced at £15 each, the cheapest ladies' signet rings available at Bravingtons.

We saved £210 by accepting Western grey seals of Atlantic Canada, rather than the Wildfowl Trust instead of the usual pink-footed. On the other hand, Hawaiian, at £150 a pair, would have added £2,730 to the bill.

Eight maids-a-milking are a top hotel and make a further £528 hole in the lover's pocket.

Southern Television, which has been engaged in a similar exercise recently, far better. It got all the drummers drumming it needed from the Royal Marines, at £100 the lot.

Our dancing ladies came, as always, from Ballet Rambert, at £26 for a two days' programme but in such a romantic cause it should be possible to raise unpaid help.

Lords-leaping have changed their basis of charging since we last wrote. Now peers' allowances depend on where they live (those living near London can claim up to £18.50 overseas) so we have been economized by assuming that once all live in London (maximum daily subsistence of £9 each) and that none of them need secretarial assistance (up to £8.50 a day more) to get airborne.

Workers informs us are quite unimpressed by the rights and over a public holiday, too.

The drummers and pipers get £12 each for a four-hour session at what the Musicians' Union calls "lowest grade casual" rates. If this does not sound good enough, we could pay £20 each to engage them at

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**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.

**§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days**

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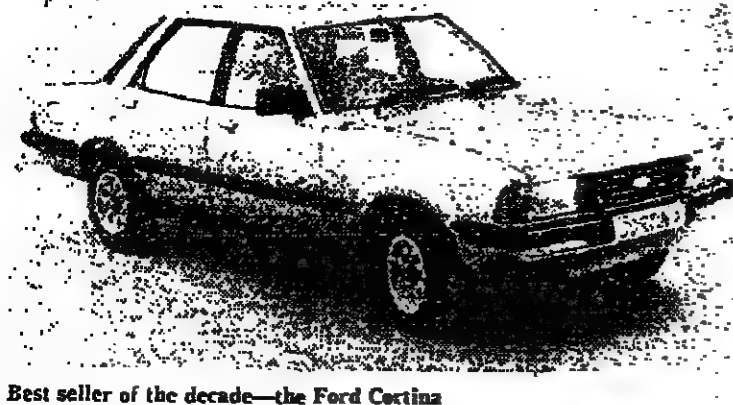
## Motoring

### The decade of increases in everything

As the 1970s draw to a close, what probably strikes the motorist most about the decade is the sharp increase in the cost of buying and maintaining his vehicle. For many people a car has long since become the biggest item of expenditure, not excluding the mortgage.

A few figures make the point. In 1979 the cheapest Mini cost £169 and the cheapest Ford Cortina £853. The equivalent prices today are £2,404 and £3,503 respectively. The average price of petrol in the same period has also risen approximately quadrupled, from 33p a gallon to around 120p. The cost of servicing, repairs and insurance has risen in the same proportion.

All other prices have gone up as well but not to the same extent. In the five years to 1977, for instance, while the retail price index doubled, motoring costs rose by 270 per cent. According to the Royal Automobile Club, the average family car (one in the 1300 to 1600



Best seller of the decade—the Ford Cortina

cc class) now represents an outlay in running costs and depreciation of well over £2,000 a year. But the picture of a nation of car owners struggling to keep their vehicles on the road has to be qualified by the large and growing number of cars maintained wholly or partly by companies. Guesses as to the size of the company car market vary but it is likely that no more than 30 per cent of the new cars sold in Britain are bought and run by private individuals out of their own pockets.

Some company cars are essential for the job; many are perks designed to boost a salary. The company car phenomenon is peculiar to Britain (where salaries are lower than in most continental countries) and largely sustained by generous tax concessions. Were those allowances to be modified or

withdrawn—and the present Government has hinted at it—the consequences for the car industry would be profound.

Not only would the total car market decline but, more important, so would the share taken by home manufacturers. Another trend of the 1970s has been the huge and unforeseen rise in the number of imported cars. In 1970 they took only 15 per cent of the market and were not regarded as a serious threat. In 1979 they took about 5 per cent.

Fleet customers, however, have tended to stay loyal to British makes, partly out of patriotism but also because they find British models cheaper to run. On reliability British cars may have a poor reputation, perhaps not entirely deserved, but that seems to be more than offset by cheaper parts and lower insurance premiums.

Without the company car market the British motor industry might have collapsed by now. Ford, easily the most successful of the main manufacturers, owes its position very largely to domination of the fleet sector. That is why, year after year, the Cortina and the Escort come at the top of the sales league for individual models.

In face of the import surge, the saddest decline has been B.L.'s. In 1970 British Leyland held 40 per cent of the new car market; in 1979 it was struggling to keep 20 per cent. It would take a look to diagnose Leyland's troubles, but they have to do with low productivity, poor labour relations and mediocre products. Leyland men would say they have lost out to the foreigners through not having enough cars to sell, thanks to industrial disputes, at the right time. But even when available, the cars have not always been attractive and reliable.

The story of the British motor industry through the 1970s has been one of rationalization and Government intervention. British Leyland was in effect nationalized in 1975 and the Government also stepped in to rescue Chrysler, before the American parent company's troubles at home caused it to quit Europe and sell its interests to Peugeot-Citroën in a surprise move that created the biggest European car-making group.

The other main British companies, Ford and Vauxhall, have both sought strength in closer ties with Europe. Ford is now run on Continental, rather than national, lines and makes almost the same models in several countries. General

Motors has trodden the same path, giving responsibility for European car design to its German subsidiary, Opel, with the result that all new Vauxhall models are thinly disguised Opels.

The most traumatic event of the decade for motorists and industry alike was the oil crisis of 1973-74. For a while it looked as if petrol would be rationed; some countries banned motoring at weekends; and the future of the car was thrown into doubt. It was the end of cheap and plentiful fuel, to be sure, but the internal combustion petrol engine was found to have no serious challengers and should last out the century as the motor car's principal means of power.

Although the events of 1973-74 came as a rude shock to motorists, they seem to have had little lasting effect. After a year or two of petrol sales started climbing again as car mileage went back to pre-crisis levels, and more new cars were sold than before. Motorists seemed prepared to make almost any financial sacrifice, rather than give up the freedom and mobility that car ownership bestowed. And by the end of the decade there were more than 14 million cars on the roads of Britain, compared with 11,500,000 when the 1970s began.

#### Road Test: Cortina 1600

The most successful British car of the 1970s has been the Cortina. Every year since 1973 (with one exception) it has been the best-selling model and will earn that distinction once more in 1979, with the highest annual sales—192,000—it has recorded. The Cortina supplied—and has continued to fulfil—the need

for a roomy, straightforward car easy to maintain and good value for money. Those qualities have found equal favour among private motorists and fleet customers alike. Another factor in its success has been constant revision. Hardly has the motorist got used to one Cortina shape than another has come to replace it. The mark V lasted only four years and so did the mark II. The mark III, which rammed some 2500 cc of power into a 1600 cc engine, was replaced by the present regular design after six years, and so it is a safe bet that the mark V will be replaced in the early 1980s. Meanwhile the present model has undergone a minimum of revisions, a set of minor changes that have nevertheless kept it fresh.

The most important improvement concerns fuel economy. In 1975 Ford set itself the task of lowering average fuel consumption across the model range by 15 per cent before 1980. Introducing the Fiesta has made the main contribution, but the Cortina has also benefited with gear, chassis and other modifications giving gains in town driving of up to 7.5 per cent. Servicing costs have been cut by nearly half and the Cortina is the first model to get Ford's impressive new anti-rust treatment.

Different buyers will look to the Cortina for different things. The fleet manager is concerned above all with running costs and so wants a car that is quick to service, has simple mechanisms that should not give trouble and is cheap to buy, cheap to run and plentiful parts. The Cortina passes each of those tests. The private buyer will be no less anxious about costs but since the car is a personal possession he may

also want to enjoy driving it. Here some doubts may creep in. Undoubtedly the poorest feature of the Cortina is its ride. Since the car has not got the suspension right (which is hard to believe) it will not spend the money. As it is, the car is neither sprung well enough to soak up the bumps, nor sufficiently damped to control the subsequent pitching.

Nor does the suspension provide the sort of car-handling that distinguishes one of the Cortina's chief rivals, the Vauxhall Cavalier. Although safe enough in most conditions, the car tends to wallow on corners and can be joggled off line by rutted surfaces. The steering is not quite as light and responsive as one would wish and the brakes, though effective, require a good deal of pressure. On the other hand, the gearbox is a pleasure to use, it shifts with smooth, easy changes.

But is the handling uninspired (and it will be interesting to see whether the mark V follows the Escort into front-wheel drive), the Cortina has several compensating virtues. Space is one of them, with ample room in the back for three people, and a good boot. Another is economy; on the 1600 GL I managed up to 33 miles to the gallon, while enjoying nippy acceleration (0 to 50 mph in under 11 seconds) and relaxed motorway cruising.

An acceptably quiet car unless driven hard, the Cortina is smartly styled, inside and out, and well equipped. A wide choice of models starts from the 1300cc two-door at £3,849 and goes up to the 2300 GLi as a four-door at just over £7,000.

Peter Waymark

## FOREIGN REPORT

### East Timor

## No end to war after four years

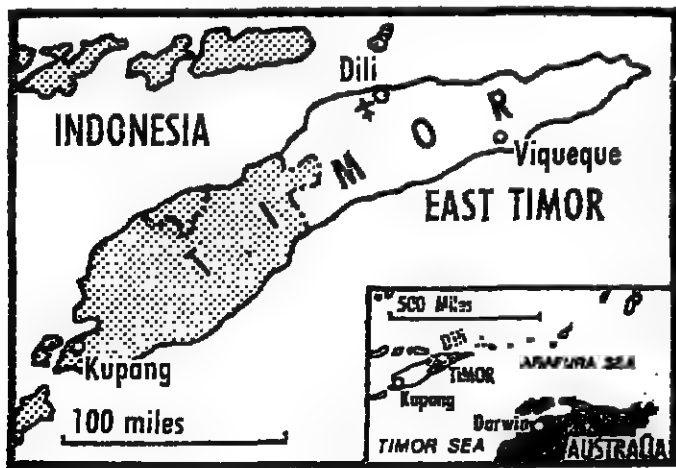
Fretilin resistance fighters emerged from their hideouts in East Timor recently and kidnapped an Indonesian government official during their search for food. A few days later, he was found near Los Palos, in the east of the island, with his throat cut.

The incident was the latest, but probably not the last, in a war that has been fought doggedly across East Timor for the past four years. For Fretilin, a Marxist group which has been resisting Indonesian annexation of East Timor, it is an increasingly desperate struggle.

East Timor has never attracted much attention except when its territory is being fought over. It consists mainly of numerous ridges of barren hills. Only the valleys are productive, or were, before the fighting started in 1975. The main natural resource, timber, principally sandalwood, has been exploited since the Portuguese arrived 500 years ago. What the Portuguese did not cut was cut either by the East Timorese themselves or by the Australian and Japanese troops who used the island as a battleground during the Second World War.

The Portuguese put little into the island. When the Portuguese governor, who was sent to the capital Dili, as punishment, threw in the sponge and escaped to the offshore island of Atauro at the time of the Lisbon revolution in 1974, there were only a dozen miles of metalled road in the territory. The people either pursued their own crude form of agriculture or worked for the Portuguese owners of the coffee plantations. Literacy was about 94 per cent in the towns and 100 per cent outside.

In the dry season a journey of 70 miles to the interior would take 12 hours or more. In the wet season, now, the roads are impassable.



While Portugal teetered on the brink of becoming a Communist state, left-wing Timorese students, their ideology influenced by the Portuguese treatment of their homeland, began to return to the island.

With weaponry, rhetoric and comrades-in-arms from the independence struggles against Portugal in Mozambique and Angola, the Fretilin cadres set about shaping themselves as an independent state with the help of many of those who had served in the local home guard under the Portuguese. The Indonesians estimate that the core of well-trained fighters numbered about 2,500 with a further 6,000, less competent, home guardsmen.

The other main political groups at this stage were Unita, which wanted an independent state but not a Marxist one, and Apodeti, which favoured integration with Indonesia. As with every other statistic in this brutal little war it is hard to ascertain the casualties in the civil war between Fretilin, Apodeti and Unita, before the Indonesians invaded East Timor on December 7, 1975, but the Indonesian Red Cross (ICRC) has estimated that about 3,000 were killed.

#### Western security involvement

Fretilin was certainly not averse to turning its guns on anyone who did not agree with it, civilian or otherwise, and not a few Timorese are in somewhat uneasy cooperation with the Indonesians today as a reaction to the murder of family or friends by Fretilin.

The idea of an independent state, Marxist or otherwise, in the Indonesian archipelago did not fit in with the geopolitical plans of the West, not to mention the Indonesians. Admiral Sudomo head of the Indone-

sian internal security service, Kopkamtib said: "An independent state in East Timor would have been like a knife in our back."

Yet it seems to have been Western intelligence agencies that persuaded President Suharto to move his troops into East Timor. For six months, until Fretilin declared an independent state, he hesitated, aware of the military cost of the adventure and of the reaction of his fellow leaders in the Third World.

After expelling the ICRC, the Indonesians invaded from West Timor to launch a war that was supposed to be short, decisive and out of sight of the rest of the world. In the event, it has been none of these things. Military ineptitude, the murder of foreign journalists near the front line and the capture by Fretilin of the Red Cross radio station in the east of the island have ensured not only that the war has lasted four years and only now appears to be on the decline, but that there should be persistent, if sporadic, journalistic interest in the fighting in spite of the efforts of governments to discourage it. The governments of the West have looked the other way.

Although there has been abundant evidence of the appalling loss of civilian lives in the East Timor fighting, the governments of the West, quick to condemn Pol Pot or Heng Samrin, have done nothing to alleviate the sufferings of the people at the hands of a friendly government. At least one United States government official has boasted of the neatness with which the "problem" has been solved.

Even now, few of the foreign missions in Jakarta have taken the trouble to investigate the situation themselves, preferring to pick the brains of returning journalists. The first post-Vietnam anti-guerrilla war has been fought with all the benefits of American experience from that conflict but far fewer resources. General Dading Kalbuadi, who commanded Indonesian forces during much of the fighting, and who now commands the military region that includes East Timor, from the more salubrious atmosphere of Bali, insists that direct comparisons with Vietnam are unrealistic, but admits that his strategy for the fighting was a mélange of his experience with the joint United Nations force that monitored the ceasefire in place in Vietnam and Indonesia's war of independence against the Dutch.

"In Vietnam the United States did not pay attention to the will of the people in the villages. I have tried to get



A young victim of the war in East Timor shows signs of malnutrition. Relief agencies are treating thousands.

them on my side." Critics of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor say that one of the main techniques General Dading employed was to force the East Timorese into "strategic hamlets" to isolate them from the Fretilin forces just as the United States tried to do in Vietnam. Since many East Timorese were forced to accompany Fretilin forces into the mountains to provide support, there may be many of them that were glad to be put into the new settlements that have now sprung up all over the eastern half of the island.

Colonel Adisil Sabang Rajakusuma, who commands the two battalions of fighting troops and various units of engineers still engaged, is positively incredulous at the suggestion that the Fretilin strategy was to abandon their centuries-old practice of living in individual huts or clusters of huts in the mountains. In any event, it was hard for a correspondent of *The Times* to establish whether the present centres of population or relief had been established originally for political reasons or to bring succour to the innocent victims of the war who are now being treated by the Catholic Church, the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross. The lives of thousands of these mountain people who fled the fighting have been saved by these organizations in relief programmes costing more than £7.5m.

Once they are in these centres the language of education is Indonesian and there is an Indonesian military or police presence in every settlement. But against that must be balanced an unprecedented level of health care, and an attention to development that is superior to many other places under Jakarta's sway. Next year, according to the Indonesians, more will be spent per capita on development in East Timor than anywhere else in the republic.

It is not possible to ascertain the extent of the havoc that was wrought by the Indonesian Rockwell Bronco counter-insurgency aircraft used extensively against Fretilin and thus against several hundred thousand civilians. On a helicopter tour of various parts of East Timor there appeared to be

signs of the use of either napalm or phosphorus bombs to the north-west of the old provincial town of Viqueque. In other parts of the island there were burned areas in the valleys where crops had been grown and where villagers' huts may have stood. It was not possible to visit the far eastern area of the island around Los Palos, where two battalions of the Indonesian Army are still continuing clean-up operations.

Admiral Sudomo insists that it is "just a matter of time" before the operation is finished as the military estimates that there are only about 200 fighters and their followers left. The military must be cautiously hoping that the operation will be brought to a conclusion before the tally of about 4,000 casualties grows any larger.

Asked about the military's degree of responsibility for the starvation conditions of thousands of Timorese civilians in the mountains after the Indonesian invasion of 1975, General Dading said: "This is one of the results of the Indonesian military movement in the past. We also bear some responsibility but the responsibility is not ours alone." Asked how many civilians suffered for more "coercive" military action, he said: "It is like asking how many were killed in Vietnam by United States air support. Nobody can tell."

#### Death of Fretilin President

There is little doubt, however, that with estimates of the number of dead from all causes since 1975 running anywhere between 30,000 and 500,000, the civilian population suffered far more "coercive" than the fighters on either side when they were trapped in the mountains by the Indonesian strategy of starving out Fretilin. When that proved to be too long a process for the liking of the Indonesian military, they launched a "vanguard" through the mountains which undoubtedly dealt a heavy blow to Fretilin that was compounded last year with the death in an ambush of Nicolau Lobato, the Fretilin President.

The raids through the mountains further increased the sufferings of the civilian population and the death of Mr Lobato dealt a near-fatal blow to Fretilin morale. That should have been the signal for the Indonesians to move quickly with aid for civilian population to the considerable areas of the country that were then free of fighting. Instead, the first Red Cross surveys were not done until April of this year and the first relief programmes did not get under way until the autumn.

Though the Indonesian Government must bear a large share of the blame for the sufferings of the people of East Timor they are now moving with an efficiency that has surprised experienced relief workers to provide the assistance necessary to make the relief operation the success it undoubtedly is.

David Watts

### Sahara

## King Hassan plays last real card in the wilderness

One of the best equipped and largest desert fighting units since the days of Montgomery and Rommel has been manning the Saharans' border with Algeria.

At the head of this unit of 6,000 men and 1,500 armoured cars, tanks, troop-carriers and trucks is Colonel Ahmed Didi, the 48-year-old, senior aide de camp of King Hassan of Morocco, an inspiring professional soldier, with what looks increasingly to be a "do or die" mission for his monarch.

The campaign he is leading began on November 3 from the mining town of Bou Craie, 30 km. south of Algiers, the former Spanish Sahara, which the Polisario Front claims would be one of the main resources of its Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara. The Moroccan column surged eastwards towards the border with orders to push the Polisario back into Algeria by next summer. Two similar columns are already to be thrown into the battle.

The job has been undertaken Operation Oud, after a famous victory in AD625, the third year of the Islamic Hegira, by Muslims from Medina against the pagans of Mecca. The choice of that name shows how strongly the King now believes he is fighting the "infidels" occupying the sacred land of Morocco.

The offensive in the desert, however, is the last real card the King has to play. It is a last-ditch effort, a desperate attempt to win the war by attrition, with the Polisario that had been sapping the strength of his country for the past five years. Diplomatically the battle seems already lost and the military does not believe he can force a settlement on his terms.

Until the start of Operation Oud, Morocco had conducted a mainly defensive war against the Polisario. Towns in the contested area were converted into fortresses that proved impregnable. But the problems of maintaining a defensive position had eroded the Moroccan Army's morale.

The Polisario was able to range the desert and mount attacks at will. The increasingly better equipped and more guerrilla-like were able to make more and more accurate claims about the effectiveness of their raids.

The second main factor in the decision to move to an offensive was the collapse of the shaky alliance with Mauritania. Morocco's weak neighbour to the south had theoretically been standing firm against the common desert enemy. But on August 5 Mauritania negotiated a peace settlement in Algeria with the Polisario, ceding it the right to the Mauritanian part of the contested area.

That threw the responsibility of policing the southern border wholly on to Morocco and enabled the guerrillas to consolidate their bases in the Sahara. Morocco's response was to attack, which is why battles between the Moroccan and the Polisario have become increasingly common in the past two months.

Colonel Didi has orders to push the guerrillas back over the Algerian border. The Moroccan hope is that this will impose a settlement on the Algerians that either they will encourage the Polisario to attack Morocco from Algerian territory. That would give Morocco the excuse it has been seeking to use in its pursuit of the guerrillas into the desert.

King Hassan used to be interviewed with *Time* magazine that peace would come in 1980 on his terms. He based that confidence on the belief that

by then Operation Oud would have succeeded. But at roughly the same time as the interview the CIA leaked a report saying that the Moroccan leadership displayed by the King is likely to continue. If it does, Hassan will lose control of events probably within a year and eventually his throne.

The CIA belief is that the King should stop the fighting and start negotiating. It was as a bribe to make the King sit down and talk that President Carter persuaded Congress on October 22 to sell reconnaissance jets and Cobra helicopters to Morocco.

The Arabs seemed to be working on November 4, when the King promised President Tolbert of Liberia, the chairman of the Organization of African Unity, that he would attend the OAU meeting in Monrovia, called to discuss the report of the "three wise men"—President Shagari of Nigeria, President Nimeiri of the Sudan and President Mervat of Tanzania—who had been studying the problem at the OAU's request.

#### King is losing Arab support

At the last moment the King announced that he would not attend the meeting because he believed it would be stacked against him, and he proceeded to infuriate the OAU by describing it as a "separate" war.

Morocco now has a United Nations' motion against it, passed on November 21 with the wholesale abstention of the Western bloc, calling on it to withdraw from the Western Sahara so that the people can vote on their own destiny. This supports the suggestion of the three OAU presidents. A number of OAU members have recognized the Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara. It is only a matter of time before the Polisario sends a representative to the OAU.

Within the Arab world, the King's enthusiastic support for the Camp David agreement almost cost him his only ally, Saudi Arabia. He is gradually being ostracized. Inside Morocco, too, problems are building up with inflation, fanned by a war costing £750,000 a day, now running at 20 per cent. Unemployment is rising, tourism is falling off and oil imports now cost more than the profit from the only mineral reserve, phosphates. On top of all that there is a bad harvest.

Although the King can still count on popular support with in Morocco for his fight to keep the Sahara territories, his tactics are under fire from the Opposition, which wants a much tougher line and open hostilities with Algeria. Wide-spread strikes last spring gave a flavour of the type of organized opposition that is building up.

#### Fears of Soviet ring of influence

The King's only real hope lies in convincing the West that he is a last bastion in north-west Africa against the Soviet Union. He argues that a new Saharan republic would be the nothing more than a Soviet satellite, cutting him off to the south. Algeria already forms a similar satellite to the east and on the other two sides there is only the sea.

He claims the Soviet Union is arming the Libyans, who act as mercenaries to the guerrilla forces, arming them with Sam missiles capable of shooting down sophisticated F-1 Mirage jets.

Like the Shah before him, King Hassan has been used for years as an one-eyed policeman by the West. Now things are going wrong and badly wrong, he feels he has been isolated by the West to pay the penalty of doing their work for them.

Ian Murray

## A furtive Christmas for Westerners in Saudi Arabia

This year more than ever, Christmas was a furtive occasion for Westerners in Saudi Arabia. Made uneasy by the silence of a month ago, they had no wish to be conspicuous.

In two weeks their confidence in the stability of the country was shattered. The strike at the Great Mosque in Mecca, and the coincidental Shia rioting in the eastern province seemed body blows to the Saudi state. It can be argued, though, that Saudi Arabia has the opportunity of coming through more united and stronger.

In Mecca, according to official announcements, 75 attackers and 63 troops died and 200 members of the Government forces were seriously wounded. In Jeddah and Qatif, Shia communities 30 miles from the crude export terminal of Ras Tanura, at least 17 people were killed in demonstrations and the Saudi-British Bank was stoned.

There are no reports of subsequent incidents, although

security is still tight around oilfields and travellers through the tribal heartland of the Nejd report roadblocks. Although the multinationality of the American military-industrial complex have produced sweeping evacuation plans, one even going so far as to draw up a strategy for commandeering the Saudi Air Force's C-130 transports, there is no reason to believe any present danger exists.

There is little doubt of what will happen to the attackers. At least 220 of the 500 or so insurgents are expected to be headed. There were women and children, acting as cooks and messengers in their group; most of the women are assumed to have been led astray by feminine naïveté and they and their children will be looked after as Arabian custom demands the dependents of the vanquished to be cared for by the tribe of the victors.

Both incidents revealed flaws in Saudi society. The Shia, a community of 80,000 strung out

along the Gulf coast live cut off from the rivers of plenty that flow to other Saudis, and are subjected to constant harassment and arrest. There is no Shia in a senior government position.

Public observance of the Ashura is banned, but this year, prompted by Iran, the right to march was demanded. There are 7,000 Shia in the workforce of 15,000 of the Arabian American Oil Company which lifts all but a fraction of Saudi crude. The rioting was clearly prompted by a surge in confidence after Iran, but officials believe the Mecca incident was simply an isolated outburst of fanaticism. The attackers were Sunni, several Bedouin and mainly students at the religious universities, thus owing allegiance to the narrowest tenets of Islam.

They were almost all Saudi, with only a smattering from Pakistan, Egypt, Somalia, Morocco, and North and South Yemen. The group is thought to have links with an underground student reform society and the

Government apparently thinks that no foreign influence was at work.

Saudis are ambivalent about the events: they were, without exception, aghast at the sacrifice but, equally, many had sympathy for the attackers. There was distrust at the thought to calm but virtual headlines that someone had at last struck out. "If they had been anywhere else," one upper class Jeddah woman almost sighed "but not in the Mosque".

It was far from being the stirrings of revolution but unhappiness was exposed. It is increasingly common nowadays for middle-aged Saudis receding into the old days when friends were not always travelling, the children not in California, and the town small enough for visiting. There are genuine longings for a greater say when not on their guard. Saudis can often show impotent fury at measured consensus decision-making and their own lack of power.

Those grumbles cannot be described as discontent. But there is a restlessness across society: a frustration spurred by opportunity that money cannot altogether treat. In the flux of change, the appearances of social cohesion are preserved through custom and regulation. Some would argue that the core is turning brittle. The identification many felt with the Mosque attackers was a glory in the brief bursting of bonds such as the Shia were celebrating the release from a far less subtle oppression.

But in their ambivalence, Saudis have come closer to getting. They have stood by their kinship against the threat. The senior members of the Royal Family, who still command respect and affection, have emerged well from the authorized version of events; the reservoir of loyalty was deep enough.

What does seem clear is that the gap between the halves of society is dangerously wide. The official march of progress has always kept the fundamentalists happy and the westernized sympathetic. Synthesis is unlikely.

Public debate on the affair

A Special Correspondent



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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shouldn't we be importing it  
and turning it into steel?  
in terms of its conversion into  
world-salable products? Our  
energy—and energy—would  
be better utilized converting  
bought-in steel semi-products  
into specialty steels and high  
added-value products for export.  
Let us not perpetuate the myth  
that, because we are a  
primary iron and steelmaking  
country, we have to go on be-  
ing that and to export the  
product to sustain the concept  
to put us in the direction  
of becoming an "industrial  
banana republic".  
And if the cry is raised that  
we must have a healthy basic  
steel industry for national  
security purposes, I suggest  
we should think again of what  
value our massive steelmaking  
plants would be to us, totally  
dependent upon an imported  
principal raw material. As for  
the "now, notice complaints  
about the dire effects on the  
coal industry from the decline  
in primary steelmaking, it must  
make sense to use this for what  
it is—a chemical feedstock as  
valuable as oil in a world that  
is likely to be increasingly  
starved, actually or through  
price, of the products which  
could be derived from it.  
Yours faithfully,  
LESLIE R. PARKES,  
26 South Cliff,  
Bexhill-on-Sea,  
Sussex TN39 3EH.

Investment  
in small  
companies

From Mr Christoph von Lutitz  
Sir, There have been a number  
of recent reports of the way in  
which pension funds, insurance  
companies and other financial  
institutions are trying to  
channel funds to the smaller  
company. Even if the insti-  
tutions invest a minimum per-  
centage of their funds in really  
small businesses this would  
undoubtedly give a much  
needed boost to young industry  
in Britain.  
Yet while these initial moves  
by the institutions must be  
welcomed, one must question  
the practicality of their inten-  
tions. To identify those small  
businesses or even start up  
operations whose long-term  
prospects warrant investment,  
requires a high degree of ac-  
curacy in assessing intangibles  
which defy numerical  
analysis, prospects of success  
or total failure for instance  
often depending on the one  
entrepreneur.  
The fund managers of the  
financial institutions are re-  
sponsible for the investment of  
millions of pounds and are  
preoccupied, in the main, with  
risk avoidance. They seldom  
will either command the indus-  
trial management experience  
or the ability to devote the  
time to conduct such an  
exercise.  
It has already been reported  
that the Post Office Pension  
Fund's investment department  
in small companies is expected  
to have a failure rate of 30 per  
cent but that will depend on  
the degree of experience and  
entrepreneurial involvement of  
those who make the investment  
decision.  
Moreover, it is not simply a  
question of investing in small  
companies and then forgetting  
about one's investment, as is  
often the case if investing in  
larger companies.  
Frequently, the truly small  
company requires some assis-  
tance in addition to finance. The  
investor should therefore be  
equipped to act as an entre-  
preneurial partner, rather than  
regard the investee company as  
just another asset in his port-  
folio.  
Those of us who specialize in  
providing finance to really  
small companies need to build  
up very new expertise in their  
face-to-face approach to the  
promising and usually quite  
self-confident entrepreneur.  
This expertise is not gained  
overnight and perhaps a for-  
mula can be worked out which  
would allow the funds of the  
institutions to be matched up  
with the expertise and experi-  
ence of the venture capitalist  
who is in the same way that  
has occurred in the United  
States.  
In this way, small companies  
which need a combination of  
finance and international mar-  
keting assistance can be  
helped to become viable nuclei  
for the next generation of  
British industry to succeed in  
world markets which will be  
increasingly subjected to cross-  
frontier competition.  
Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPH VON LUTITZ,  
Capital Partners International,  
17C Curzon Street,  
London W1R 7FR.  
December 28

## of office space

Office buildings  
main provincial  
over the past  
years risen very  
a substantial  
for such space  
available. This  
fleecing of the  
very in cor-  
this country  
supplies with  
ete disappear-  
ment follow-  
crisis in 1974,  
response to an  
ce that the  
reasonable  
for office  
be developed  
in order to  
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reduce the  
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The so-called  
have been  
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staff being  
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than in fact it  
and the rents  
of their own  
necessity for  
the supply  
companies feel  
technological  
lace in office  
the situations  
reduce their  
e space then  
e fallen and  
have risen,  
the supply of  
ch as yet as  
percentage

## cal training in schools

less unemployment in the  
country as a whole.  
My contention is that young-  
sters of 14, not academically  
suited to O levels or CSEs,  
should have technical training  
before leaving school. It is  
reasonably given that they may  
learn a craft or trade by the  
age of 16. They will then have  
some skills to give to industry  
and society, but possibly have  
been saved from boredom and  
happier and more fulfilled lives  
happier and more fulfilled lives  
as well as their minds.  
I have discussed my view  
point with many people in  
LEA, all of which consider the  
idea sensible and practical.  
I would hope that among your  
readers there are persons with  
the right authority sufficiently  
interested to develop these  
ideas.  
Yours faithfully,  
STELLA FINER,  
Director,  
Carnegie Models Limited,  
23-25 Eastcastle Street,  
London W1N 3EE.  
December 13.

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Only gold shares active

Gold shares saved the Stock  
Market from its usual post-  
Christmas gloom yesterday,  
as the bullion price soared  
through the psychological \$500  
barrier.  
But elsewhere, dealers  
reported quieter conditions than  
even those experienced on  
Christmas Eve as investors con-  
tinued their extended Christmas  
holidays. The imminent national  
steel strike, which threatens to  
strangle large sectors of British  
industry, has been a major  
detractor for would-be specu-  
lators.

Riding on the crest of the  
strong Australian Market, the  
shares of Paragon Mining &  
Exploration have risen from a  
summer price of 17p to 57p  
yesterday. The equity has been  
additionally helped by hopes  
that exploration on the Paragon  
fields, next to those of the Ash-  
ton Project, may come up  
trumps.

Little activity was also  
reported in the gilt edged sec-  
tor where longs were mostly  
unchanged with falls of about  
£18 noted at the shorter end  
of the market.  
After dipping 3.0 down at 3  
pm the FT index closed slightly  
better at the closing 2.8 off  
at 414.7 as the market showed  
a slightly firmer note after  
lunch.

The threat of a confrontation  
between the United States and  
Iran coupled with a build up  
of Russian forces on its borders  
with Afghanistan were reported  
as the main reason for the rise  
in the bullion price which  
closed \$24.4 up at \$511.15.  
This prompted a flurry of activity  
among Gold shares with West  
Drakeford \$34 up at \$721,  
Western Holdings \$5 stronger at  
\$84 and American Gold \$4  
better at \$753.

In the meantime, Kiof im-  
proved \$24 to \$271 while St  
Helen's put on \$21 to \$281.  
Among London financials Con-  
solidated Gold Holdings rose 12p  
to 383p spurred on by the  
new gold level, RTZ improved  
4p to 323p while in diamonds  
De Beers Dfd advanced \$4 to  
\$9 11-32. The excitement in golds

shares also spilled over into  
platinum where Impala rose  
4p to 220p and Rustenburg  
leapt 15p to 202p.

Leading industrials continued  
to drift lower with falls of 3p  
in Glaxo and 3p in Pison and  
25p in ICI at 357p and Unilever  
at 452p both registered  
falls of 3p. However, Sider-  
mained firm at 180p as did Pil-  
kington Bros at 200p with the  
new unchanged at 2p premium.

Shares in Highland Distillers  
remained unchanged at 145p in  
spite of the recommendation by  
the board to reject the bid from  
Biram Walker. Joseph Shake-  
speare continued to improve  
rising 1p to 27p following a bid  
from Wierway Watson 1p  
down at 15p, on Christmas Eve.  
M & G Group (Holdings) re-  
covered 5p of last week's sharp  
falls as a direct result of the  
maximum call for 17m in last  
week and Kleinwort Benson, a  
major shareholder in M & G,  
remained unchanged at 124p.

BAT Industries dipped 1p to  
240p on reports that it was in  
talks with Booker McConnell  
over the sale of its wholesale  
subsidiary Kearsley & Tongue.  
The sharp surge in the  
bullion price to over \$500 pro-  
vided a busier time for traded  
securities than the quiet  
on Christmas Eve. Consolidated  
Gold Fields provided the main  
feature accounting for 126 out  
of the total number of con-  
tractions of 161. Once again, it  
was the higher series which  
attracted the most attention  
with the January, April and  
July 390p series particularly

active. Conditions in traditional  
options remained quiet  
although calls were made in  
Lombard, C. J. Bowring, Burmah,  
Charterhall, 600 Group, Coral  
Leisure, Aitrix and Laurence  
Scott. A put was arranged in  
Perbow and Douglas Scott. In  
Allied Colloids and C. T.  
Bowring.

Fading bid hopes clipped 4p  
from Allied Colloids at 133p  
while Sotheby's PS remained  
unchanged at 385p after 403p  
ahead of results later in the  
year. F. W. Thorpe was 7p  
better at 110p in a thin market  
and Moss Bros remained firm  
at 250p after 253p.

Building shares were another  
weak feature as Taylor Wood-  
row dropped 8p to 323p as a  
result of the costly repairs in  
connection with the Roman Point  
collapse. Blue Circle Industries  
at 241p and RMC at 130p both  
recorded falls of 1p.

Oils remained subdued on  
fears of the continued rising  
cost of oil with all the majors  
mostly easier. BP was 2p off at  
342p and the new 3p lower at  
141p. Ultramar was 4p off at  
414p and Shell retreated 2p to  
324p. The recent merger of Oil  
Exploration and Lasso did little  
for Lasso shares unchanged at  
338p in spite of persistent take-  
over rumours, and profit taking  
stepped 10p from Stebens at  
398p.

Shares of C. T. Bowring were  
2p firmer at 129p as share-  
holders awaited further develop-  
ments in the bid from Marsh &  
Macellenn. Minet Holdings were  
a penny better at 98p but  
Sedgwick Forbes remained un-  
changed at 92p.

The major insurance com-  
panies were mostly easier as  
were properties. GRE shed 3p  
to 226p, Commercial Union fell  
2p to 138p but General Ac-  
cidental remained firm at 218p.

MEFAC at 194p and Land  
Securities at 250p were both 1p  
easier although the one notable  
exception was Hammerson "A"  
15p higher at 715p.

General observers think that  
Spring Growth, the industrial  
clothing company, is about to  
behave better. Offered at a  
minimum tender price of 63p  
to Charterhouse's 16,000 share-  
holders, the shares are now 69p  
with a 9p premium. It is  
thought that state hold have  
been shaken out of the shares.

Among the big four clearing  
banks Midland Bank slipped 7p  
to 323p while falls of 5p were  
noted in National Westminster  
at 351p and Lloyds at 305p.  
Barclays was 3p off at 343p.

Equity turnover on December  
24 was £25,196m (4,621 bar-  
gains). Active stocks yesterday,  
Mr Benjamin Feder has been  
noted in National Westminster  
at 351p and Lloyds at 305p.  
Barclays was 3p off at 343p.

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## Hampton Gold ahead

By Michael Prest  
Strong nickel prices helped  
push interim pre-tax profits at  
Hampton Gold Mining Areas up  
£201,000 to £446,000. But the  
national engineering strike had  
a "material impact" on profits  
from Wulfox, the Buddersfield  
manufacturer of mining machin-  
ery, and the company's main  
profit earner.

Hampton has been a stock  
market high flier for most of the  
year. It has coal mining  
interests, a gold mine, a  
percent stake in the Sun Oil  
consortium in the North Sea,  
nickel royalties from operations  
by Western Mining in its Aus-  
tralian lease areas, a lead ven-  
ture in Western Australia, and  
some gold mining possibilities.  
Hampton also owns 14.34 per  
cent of Geveer, the Cornish tin  
mine.

Royalties from the nickel  
operations were £432,000 for the  
six months to the end of Sep-  
tember, compared with £148,000  
for the same period of last year.  
Nickel royalties for the whole  
of 1978 were £516,000. Mr Jim  
Ley, chairman of Hampton,  
expects that the nickel market  
will stay stable during 1980, but  
that inflation will push up pro-  
ducer prices beyond their  
current \$3.20 a pound.

## Wheway in £2.5m bid

By Baron Phillips  
A £2.5m agreed bid has been  
made by Birmingham based  
engineers Wheway Watson  
Holdings for the West Midlands  
forgers Joseph Shakespeare.  
The offer is a mixture of Whe-  
way shares and unsecured loan  
notes.

Shareholders are being  
offered 95 ordinary 10p shares  
in Wheway and £16 floating  
loan notes for every 100 ordi-  
nary 5p shares in Shakespeare.  
In addition 65p  
cash is offered for each £1.49  
per cent cumulative preference  
shares.

The offer effectively values  
Shakespeare's shares at twice  
the middle market price on  
December 12, the last day prior  
to the announcement that talks  
were taking place. Wheway's  
bid was £2.5m, while Shakespea-  
re's ordinary shares at 31.2p  
compared with a market price of

While this means Hampton  
can expect a good cash flow, it  
has run into problems with its  
other Australian interests.  
Northernport Lead Mines, in  
which Hampton has 50 per cent  
with the rest owned by three  
Australian investors, has run  
into disagreement over who  
should manage the mine. Work  
has been suspended.

Development of the small  
White Hope Gold Mine has also  
been slower than expected. But  
Mr Ley says Hampton is looking  
at the possibility of mining sur-  
face gold in its Western Aus-  
tralia lease areas. Sun Oil will  
be bidding in the seventh North  
Sea round. Hampton has  
not said that it will withdraw  
from the consortium.

The figures include an extra-  
ordinary item of £62,000 for the  
cost of the abortive deal with  
Colonial Mutual Life Assurance.  
The Australian institution's 26.2  
per cent holding in Hampton  
was bought in October by the  
Bond Corporation. But Mr Ley  
says he has no idea as to Bond's  
intentions, except that a request  
by Mr Alan Bond that he join  
the Hampton board was re-  
jected.

An interim dividend of 1.5p,  
the same as last year, was  
declared.

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to the announcement that talks  
were taking place. Wheway's  
bid was £2.5m, while Shakespea-  
re's ordinary shares at 31.2p  
compared with a market price of

## Eagle Star in Hongkong deal

A new Hongkong based com-  
pany, Asian Eagle Insurance  
Company has been formed and  
will commence trading on Jan-  
uary 1.  
Eagle Star will own 75 per  
cent of the company, and has  
issued capital of the remaining  
25 per cent being owned by the  
Moller Group which is asso-  
ciated with the Hutchison  
Whampoa Group.

Mollers who have repre-  
sented Eagle Star in Hongkong  
since 1965, will continue to main-  
tain agencies on behalf of Eagle  
Star and its associated group C  
Shield. Mollers will also main-  
tain other existing insurance  
agency representations.

Kleinwort Benson  
in US sale

Kleinwort Benson has agreed  
in principle to sell its 40 per  
cent share of Kleinwort Benson  
McGowan to the US. The com-  
pany has been formed and  
will commence trading on Jan-  
uary 1.  
Eagle Star will own 75 per  
cent of the company, and has  
issued capital of the remaining  
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tain other existing insurance  
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Tricentrol offer:  
Cableform results

The formal offer document  
for Tricentrol's agreed bid for  
Cableform Group has been  
issued. Cableform's interim re-  
sults for the half year to Sep-  
tember 30, are included.  
Turnover rose from £17.2m to  
£24.4m while pre-tax profits  
were £173,000 against £171,000.  
After exchange loss of £16,000  
against £15,000.

Trading conditions for the  
second half are not expected  
to be materially different from  
the same period last year. An  
interim dividend, as announced  
in November, has been increased  
by 20 per cent to 2.5p per share  
net.

Grand Metropolitan  
and Liggett

Grand Metropolitan has an-  
nounced that it has made a  
filing in connection with the  
United States anti-trust regula-  
tions. The filing is in response  
to a request from the Federal  
Trade Commission, under the  
Rothman Act with respect to  
purchase of shares in Liggett  
Group, a United States corpora-  
tion.

In this filing, Grand Metro-  
politan stated that it was  
intending to acquire from  
time to time, depending on  
market conditions and other  
factors, additional shares of  
Liggett which, together with  
present holdings, would result  
in ownership of 51.5m of  
Liggett's outstanding  
voting securities.

Cullens stores more  
than doubles

Cullens Stores, the grocer  
and wine merchant, more than  
doubled pre-tax profit from  
£70,000 to £144,000 in the 26  
weeks to August 31, 1979. Turn-  
over rose from £7.6m to £8.3m.  
The group also made a below-  
the-line capital surplus of  
£145,000, against a previous  
£43,000, on the sale of unprofit-  
able shops. No more shop  
closures are planned this year.

## Shell's Bellambi bid

The joint bid by Shell  
Company of Australia and  
McLellan's Meechem for  
Bellambi Coal Company has  
been approved by the foreign  
investment review board, Shell  
and McLellan's states.

As previously reported, the  
two companies agreed to pay  
Consolidated Gold Fields of  
Australia a total of \$10.17m for  
its 54.32 per cent stake in Bel-  
lambi and to make a similar  
offer to minority interests.

Sumitomo forecast

Sumitomo Bank of Japan says  
it predicts Japan's real economic  
growth rate for 1980 beginning  
next April will be 3.8 per cent.  
The forecast is in line with the  
government's target of about 4  
per cent for 1980 ending March  
31 and its new forecast of 4.2 per  
cent for 1980.

The Sumitomo prediction was  
based on the assumption that  
crude oil prices will fall to \$20  
a barrel next year and that in-  
creases will be about 2 per cent.  
Sumitomo says in a survey, per-  
sonal spending will slow down as  
price increases accelerate by  
higher oil prices. An anticipated  
decline in private housing con-  
struction, slow growth in public  
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slower economic growth, it added.

Sumitomo forecast

Sumitomo Bank of Japan says  
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# Vectis Stone ahead by one quarter

[illegible]



## PERSONAL CHOICE



(right), Anthony Van Lust (left) and Paddy wedding sequence from Kate (BBC2, 8.15).

ies on both BBC and ITV indicate that television viewers are turning to programmes that are not only, Radio 4 (4.10) has a feature about the t hirsute moon-motivated nightmare beloved of skers... The eclectic Margaret Howard becomes a y. Normally it is the pick of the week's TV and rmes with which she is concerned. Tonight she presents the pick of the whole year... if that entertaining and instructional music quiz line today (Radio 4, 12.27) the same four panellists y, Wallace, Ainsie and the same chairperson the ve Race... For those starved of political goodies ek there is relief in the shape of William Goleat, who at the University of Essex, who talks on Labour Leadership on Radio 3 at 8.00.

ffs there is promise of a good day's viewing, ending te with a full-length portrait, fleshed out with l film clips, of Erich von Stroheim, whose e film director was legendary (BBC2, 10.35 pm). a BBC 2 (4.25), there is John Huston's 1955 attempt ssible and almost succeeding. His Moby Dick is as the miniature about whales' fashions and galore, but, thanks to a subtle printing process in nd black-and-white were blended to produce ked like old whaling prints, enough of the ure of Melville's book remains to satisfy seekers 's inner truth. As for Slough (BBC 1, 9.15), it is a, wickedly clever and managing to be both funny and as for casting, was Oliver ever more strangely he was by Michael Caine in Slough? I doubt it, nothing worth watching on independent y? You could, perhaps, try The Winds of Kitty story of the Wright brothers, who pioneered the aeroplane. Maybe it is one of those made-for-TV ocussion, manages not to look like something that ur TV sets on a conveyor belt. Michael Moriarty iman play the Wrights... The human star in ow is Liza Minnelli, which bodes well for tonight's ingenious series in which manipulators and riers achieve minor miracles in the art of

## Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

10.00 am What-a-Mess: A Frank Mutt story about his pet dog. The title: A Mole and a Mole. 10.10 am Jackanory: Hansard Gordon tells another of Allison Uttley's tales for children. Today: The Fairy Ship (r). 10.20 am Captain Caveman: cartoon. The Creeper Claw Caper (r). 10.30 am Why Don't You? Ideas for games. By children, for children. 10.35 am Music Roundabout: It spins yet again (r). 12.00 am Zorro: Animated adventure. The Man with the Whip (r). 11.30 am Mickey Mouse: cartoons, including 101 Dalmatians and parts 4 and 5 of Toby Tyler. 11.55 am Greatest Heroes of the Bible: The story of Sodom and Gomorrah. With Dorothy Malone, Ed Ames. 12.05 pm News and weather. 1.00 pm The Queen in Arabia: High-lights from the Queen and the eastern Arabia earlier this year. 1.50 pm Camberwick Green: puppet play for children (r). 2.00 pm Film. Stagecoach (1966), 11-

## BBC 2

11.00 am Play School: same as BBC 1. 1.55 pm Close down at 12.55. 2.15 pm Film: Moby Dick (1956) John Huston's good shot at doing the 'impossible-making a film out of Melville's masterly allegory about Captain Ahab and the white whale. Short on 'philosophy', long on action. (See Personal Choice). 6.15 pm Lieutenant Kie: Puppet version of the tale of the non-existent lieutenant, made famous by Frodo's music which we hear. We also hear the voice of Leo McKern as the Taur. 6.30 pm The Light Princess: Victorian fantasy, with Stacy Dorning as the cursed princess who cannot stop laughing. John Fortune as the prince. Good special effects, with landscape framings by Errol Le Cain (r). 9.30 am The Search for the Persian Royal Blood: Part 1. Documentary tracing the route of the imperial highway built by Darius the Great and Cyrus. 10.20 pm Film: The Invasion of Johnson County. Western about land-grabbers. With Bill Bixby and Bob Hopkins. 11.55 pm The Bubbles: cartoon. Echoes. 12.00 pm Song Book: Young people's favourite songs, sung by Kathy Jones, Leo Dave, Colin Gardner. 12.10 pm Once Upon a Time: Peter Davidson recounts The Great Honey Race. 12.30 pm Thunderclouds: Bats in the Bell. Comedy set in a maelstrom. With John Fraser. 1.00 pm News. 1.20 pm The News. 1.30 pm Crown Courts: The verdict in the case of the husband (Gerald Harper) accused of collusion in the death of his wife. Stan Phillips constant and Geoffrey Keen is the judge. 1.40 pm News. 1.50 pm The Winds of Kitty Hawk (1978): The story of the flight of the Wilbur and Orville Wright. (See Personal Choice). 3.45 pm Aladdin: Fantomime, by the New York Street Players. 4.45 pm Magsie: A look back at the career of special music tonight. Transport, did you pantomime horses, roller disco and an American horror film called Screamer. 5.15 pm The Solid Gold Top Twenty: The Top 20 music records that have sold the most copies in the past 20 years. 5.45 pm News. 6.00 pm The News. 6.15 pm News. 6.30 pm The News. 6.45 pm News. 6.55 pm News. 7.00 pm News. 7.15 pm News. 7.30 pm News. 7.45 pm News. 7.55 pm News. 8.00 pm News. 8.15 pm News. 8.30 pm News. 8.45 pm News. 8.55 pm News. 9.00 pm News. 9.15 pm News. 9.30 pm News. 9.45 pm News. 9.55 pm News. 10.00 pm News. 10.15 pm News. 10.30 pm News. 10.45 pm News. 10.55 pm News. 11.00 pm News. 11.15 pm News. 11.30 pm News. 11.45 pm News. 11.55 pm News. 12.00 pm News. 12.15 pm News. 12.30 pm News. 12.45 pm News. 12.55 pm News. 1.00 pm News. 1.15 pm News. 1.30 pm News. 1.45 pm News. 1.55 pm News. 2.00 pm News. 2.15 pm News. 2.30 pm News. 2.45 pm News. 2.55 pm News. 3.00 pm News. 3.15 pm News. 3.30 pm News. 3.45 pm News. 3.55 pm News. 4.00 pm News. 4.15 pm News. 4.30 pm News. 4.45 pm News. 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